An ACCOUNT of

EAST-FLORIDA,

WITH A

JOURNAL,

KEPT BY

JOHN BARTRAM *of* Philadelphia,

BOTANIST to His MAJESTY

FOR

THE FLORIDAS;

UPON

A Journey from ST. AUGUSTINE up the River ST. JOHN'S.

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1767

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO

The MOST HONOURABLE

CHARLES

MARQUIS of ROCKINGHAM.

FIRST LORD of the TREASURY,

&c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

AS the commercial intereſts of Great-Britain are weighed by your Lordſhip daily, in order that they may be promoted, and a thorough knowledge of his majeſty's foreign dominions is ſought after, with a view to the public ſervice, I flatter myſelf, that an account

of a new colony, of which there is none as yet publiſhed, will have the honour of meeting with your Lordſhip's approbation.

During my reſidence in Eaſt-Florida, I employed myſelf in acquiring a knowledge of that country: I made myſelf acquainted, as far as my ſtay there would permit, with its ſoil and navigable rivers, its climate and natural productions. I can aſſure your Lordſhip, that my purſuit was made agreeable by the ſatisfactory evidences found, both of the goodneſs of the ſoil, and the healthineſs of the climate.

In its climate it has the advantage of South-Carolina and Georgia; and from being nearer the ſun than thoſe colonies, will, probably, be found ſuperior to them in the produce of rice, indigo, ſilk, cotton, &c. If I am partial to Eaſt-Florida, it is not for want of knowing other countries, either in Europe or America, for I have compared it with them. I ſuſpect myſelf the leſs of this foible, becauſe other gentlemen, who know the country, rate the advantages to be expected from this colony higher than I do.

DEDICATION.

I have no views in publiſhing the following ſheets, but the benefit and advantages Great-Britain may reap, by encouraging and promoting this young colony. And I inſcribe them to your Lordſhip, becauſe whatever is calculated for ſuch a purpoſe, cannot fail to gain your Lordſhip's attention and countenance. I am, with the greateſt reſpect,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble

and moſt obedient ſervant,

WILLIAM STORK.

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN any new matter is laid before the public, there is no doubt but its reception depends not only upon the real merits of what is propoſed, but in a great meaſure, upon the prepoſſeſſions already entertained upon that ſubject. The author of the following account of Eaſt-Florida, cannot but be ſenſible, how much his deſign, to make the nation acquainted with that country, is diſcou-

raged, by the prejudices, which at preſent prevail a-gainſt it. The truth of the matter is, that this country is very little known in Europe: even the Spaniards, who from indolence, and a fear of the Indians, ſeldom ventured beyond the lines of St. Auguſtine, made themſelves but little acquainted with it. Its broad ſandy beach makes a diſadvantageous appearance to ſhips that ſail along this coaſt; and the accounts of mariners have, for this reaſon, repreſented it as barren and

uſeleſs,

uſeleſs. The ſeveral concurrent accounts of the unhealthineſs and infertility of Weſt-Florida, which ſeem but too well founded; have had no ſmall effect, to induce a belief in many perſons, that the whole of Florida, ceded to Great-Britain, is little better than a ſandy deſert. Prejudices once entertained, are not eaſily overcome; the lights offered to remove them muſt be ſtrong, in order to be convincing.

The deſign of this work is not only to fix the attention of the miniſtry upon an

object of great national importance; but alſo to point out to individuals, eſpecially to perſons of a middling fortune, to take up grants from the crown, of lands in Eaſt-Florida; where, the climate, ſoil, and produce conſidered, the lands are of no leſs value than in the iſlands of the Weſt-Indies.

The author knows but of two perſons now in England, beſides himſelf, (they are fortunately both in parliament) who are actually acquainted with this country. One of them is the noble

lord

lord whoſe travels through the continent of America, have been made with ſo much benefit to the public. The other is Mr. Denys Rolle; who has already made a conſiderable ſettlement upon St. Juan's River, weſt of Auguſtine.

The importance of Eaſt-Florida, in a national view, depends upon theſe two grounds; firſt, its fertility, in producing ſuch articles of commerce, as are particularly wanted by Great-Britain: ſecondly, upon its convenience, from its ſituation

and other circumſtances, to carry on a beneficial commerce with the Spaniſh ſettlements in time of peace; and to intercept, and cut off their trade in time of war.

As to the fertility of Eaſt-Florida, without entering into the detail of its productions, which ſhall be reſerved for the body of the work; I here propoſe only to make ſome general remarks with reference to this head; and muſt intreat the reader for a while to ſuſpend his opinion, and not take it implicitly for granted, that that part

of

of North-America, at preſent ſo little known, which lies to the ſouth of Georgia, differs in its ſoil from the reſt of the continent; or is unfit for ſuch productions, as correſpond with the nature of its climate.

In North-America we meet with every ſort of climate; and in one part or other, it is capable of yielding every valuable production. If it be aſked, which part of this continent is the beſt, the queſtion is too general to receive a determinate anſwer. We know indeed,

deed, that the ſoil of Newfoundland is, from the nature of the climate, incapable of yielding a produce, equally valuable with cotton, indigo, or ſugar. We may go further, and for the European trade, without difficulty, prefer the climate of Carolina and Georgia, to that of Canada or Nova-Scotia.

If we take a view of America, or even of the globe of the earth, we ſhall find the northern, even the temperate climates, which are moſt agreeable to live in,

are

are the leaſt adapted to the purpoſes of trade with Europe; where the climate being of the ſame nature, of courſe yields nearly the ſame productions. We ſhall ſee this illuſtrated, by comparing the produce of the two ſmall iſlands of St. Chriſtopher, and Rhode-Iſland, both of them well ſettled, and well cultivated; both fertile, and almoſt of the ſame ſize; the principal difference betwixt them conſiſting in this, that the former is ſituated in lat. 17. and the latter in 41. let an eſtimate

be made of the annual exports of each; by comparing them together we diſcover at once the difference that is made by climate only: the exports of the former are of great value, and of the latter of very little.

Upon the continent itſelf we cannot but be ſenſible that the ſouthern colonies, though the lateſt ſettled, and therefore the fartheſt from the beſt ſtate of cultivation, yield more valuable articles of trade than the northern colonies; and (the number of inhabitants conſidered)

dered) greatly ſurpaſs them in the amount of their exports.

The colony of Georgia, which from being a barrier province, and other circumſtances, had, when firſt ſettled, many diſadvantages to ſtruggle with; yet the rapid increaſe, which it has lately made in its exports, affords ſufficient proofs that its climate is perfectly adapted to the purpoſes, both for European and American commerce; and fit for rice, ſilk, and indigo; which, ſugar excepted, conſtitute the moſt

valuable article of trade. In New-England, to ſay nothing of Canada and Nova-Scotia, where the winters are ſtill more ſevere, the earth is covered with ſnow at leaſt three months in the year; the rigour of the climate puts an end to all vegetation; the beaſts of the field require to be ſheltered from the inclemencies of the weather, and be ſuſtained with fodder, laid by in ſummer: even the laborious hand of induſtry is in this ſeaſon of the year deſtitute of all uſeful employment.

During

During the ſame period, the vegetation in Carolina and Georgia affords ſufficient food for cattle; no ſhelter is required for them; the lakes and rivers are not frozen, and the garden vegetables contribute greatly to make a plenty of ſuſtenance.

I have dwelt the longer upon a compariſon of the northern with the ſouthern colonies, in order that by ſhewing the manifeſt ſuperiority of the latter, in a commercial view, no ſurprize may be felt at the repreſentation

tation given of Eaſt-Florida; in which all perſons concur who know that country, and are alſo acquainted with the proper cultivation of it.

If we carry the eye along the eaſtern coaſt of North-America, from Hudſon's-bay, down to the iſland of Cuba; which lies a little to the ſouth of the Cape of Florida, as we draw nearer the ſun, the ſouthern commercial productions generally become better, and of more intrinſick worth. It is not only in ſugar and indigo, that Cuba ſurpaſſes all the Engliſh

Engliſh ſettlements, lying upon the continent, but in all other productions, that depend principally upon the power of the ſun. And in this reſpect, Eaſt-Florida hath the advantage of Carolina and Georgia, as much as Cuba has the advantage of Eaſt-Florida.

In order to judge of the produce to be expected from a freſh ſoil, well ſupplied with navigable rivers, in the climate of Eaſt-Florida, let us conſider the reſt of the globe, lying in the ſame latitude, and we find Egypt,

Arabia

Arabia Felix, Perſia, India, China, and Japan; of which China is the only country, that has a tolerable government; yet it muſt be acknowledged, that all of them are, or have been, famous for their riches and fertility. When we ſpeak, as it were, proverbially, of the riches of the eaſt, we can allude to no other country than thoſe that have been mentioned.

As to the ſituation of Florida, in reſpect of the Spaniſh trade, it need only be obſerved, that the Spaniards are too lazy to ſupply them-

themſelves even with neceſ-
ſaries; that the Havannah,
one of their richeſt ports, is
only a few days ſail from St.
Auguſtine, and of courſe, is
much nearer to the capes of
Florida, which lie directly
oppoſite to that celebrated
harbour. The trade winds,
which perpetually blow with-
in the tropics, from eaſt to
weſt, render the communi-
cation betwixt the Havan-
nah and St. Auguſtine al-
ways eaſy, as they lie, in
reſpect to each other, north
and ſouth.

As to the ſituation of Florida, with a view to ſurprize the Spaniſh ſhips in time of war, the trade winds oblige the regiſter ſhips and galleons from Carthagena, Porto Bello, and Vera Cruz, the rich cargoes whereof are very well known, to return to Europe through the gulph of Florida, and to call at the port of the Havannah, in their way to Old Spain. The ſtrong current that conſtantly runs from the eaſt, between the Bahama iſlands and Cuba, right into the gulph of Mexico,

as

as well as the trade winds, which blow from the ſame quarter, greatly embarraſs ſhips coming from the weſtward to the port of the Havannah, and expoſe them very much to the deſigns of an enemy. When veſſels, in their way to Europe, double the capes of Florida, they are under a neceſſity of keeping near to the ſhore, in order to take the benefit of the eddies and land breezes. When they have got round the capes, and fall in the ſtream of the gulph of Florida, they are

carried forcibly to the northwards by the ſtrength of that noted current. A few ſhips of force may eaſily take every loaded veſſel on its way through this confined ſtrait, which is about 50 miles wide, and ſomewhat more than 200 miles long; and affords to ſhips paſſing through it, but little choice in the line of their navigation.

It is eaſy to diſcern the utility of a fortified harbour near the capes; it would contribute not a little, to ſecure the command of the gulph

gulph of Mexico, as well as Florida; the importance whereof, I need not enlarge upon.

I have insensibly run to a much greater length in this introduction than I intended. In estimating the value of East-Florida, I have, unavoidably, accounted upon what it will be when settled, not upon what it is.

I foresee its climate and produce, as well as its situation, which, with respect to the Spanish dominions, is of great moment, will one day render it a very im-

important colony to Great-Britain; yet, the town of St. Auguſtine excepted, this country is at preſent, for want of inhabitants, little better than a deſart.

Do not State

AN

ACCOUNT

OF

EAST-FLORIDA.

SECT. I.

SITUATION.

EAST-FLORIDA, the moſt ſouthern colony upon the continent of Britiſh America, lies between the 25th and 31ſt degree of north latitude.

BOUNDARIES.

By the king's proclamation, dated the 7th of October 1763, its boundaries were fixed on the north by the river St. Mary's, on the eaſt by the Atlantic ocean and gulph of Florida, on the weſt by the river Apalachicola and the gulph of Mexico.

EXTENT.

EXTENT.

Its length from north to ſouth is 350 miles. Its breadth from the mouth of St. Mary's river, its northern limits, to the river Apalachicola is about 240.

At the mouths of St. Juan's river, 40 miles ſouth of St. Mary's, where the peninſula begins, it is 180 miles broad; and grows narrower from thence to the capes of Florida, where its breadth may be between 30 and 40 miles. It contains upon the neareſt calculation about 12 millions of acres, which is nearly as much as Ireland.

The ſea coaſt of Eaſt-Florida is a low flat country, interſected by a great number of rivers, very like Holland, or Surinam in America. It continues flat for about 40 miles from the coaſt, and then grows a little hilly, and in ſome parts rocky.

Florida differs materially from the reſt of America in this, that almoſt all the continent beſides is covered with a thick foreſt; whereas the trees in Florida are at a diſtance from one another, and being clear of under wood, this country has more the

the appearance of an open grove than a foreſt.

The rains and the heavy dews, which are more frequent here than to the northward, create ſuch a luxuriant vegetation, that the ſurface of the earth, notwithſtanding the heat of the ſun, is never without a good verdure.

SECT. II.

SOIL.

A country ſo extenſive as this cannot but have a variety of ſoil, the ſandy is the moſt prevalent, eſpecially towards the ſea.

There are generally four ſtrata or beds of earth found in Eaſt-Florida: the uppermoſt is a mould of earth, a few inches thick; beneath is a ſand half a yard in depth; below that a ſtrong white clay, reſembling the marle in England, and may be uſed as manure to the ſandy land, this ſtratum is commonly four feet thick; the fourth layer is a rock compoſed of petrified ſea ſhells. The fertility of Florida is much aſcribed to theſe two ſtrata of clay and rock, which contribute to keep the ſand

moiſt, and prevent the rains from ſinking away from the roots of the plants and trees.

In the interior parts the trees are larger, the graſs higher, and the cattle bigger, than toward the ſea, eſpecially in that part of the peninſula which lies betwixt the river St. Juan's, and the fort of St. Mark d'Apalachie, which is about 150 miles to the northweſt of this river.

To take a view of the eaſtern ſhore of Florida, beginning from the north: we meet the river St. Mary's, lying in the 30th degree 47, latitude, it is a mile broad at its mouth, where Amelia iſland is ſituated; it has five fathom water upon the bar at low water, is navigable above 60 miles, where it has three fathom water. It is the beſt harbour from the capes of Virginia to thoſe of Florida; it takes its riſe out of the great ſwamp *, called by the Indians Owa-qua-phe no-gaw. The lands upon the banks of this river are the richeſt in the northern parts of the province; the abun-

dance

* The word ſwamp is peculiar to America; it there ſignifies a tract of land that is ſound and good, but by lying low is covered with water. All the foreſt trees (pine excepted) thrive beſt in the ſwamps, where the ſoil is always rich; and when cleared and drained is proper for the growth of rice, hemp, and indigo.

dance of cane-ſwamps ſufficiently ſhews the fertility thereof. The beſt trees, that grow in the ſwamps on this river, are the live oak and cedar, very uſeful for ſhip-building; their extraordinary ſize is a ſtrong mark of the goodneſs of the ſoil. A colony of Bermudians is ſoon expected to ſettle upon this river, and the Amelia iſland.

St. Juan's, now called St. John's river, lies 40 miles ſouthward of St. Mary's; the tract of land between them conſiſts of plains covered with pines; theſe plains are called in America, pine-barrens, or highlands, in contradiſtinction to the ſwamps and lowlands.

We find a ſtriking difference betwixt the pine-barrens of Florida, and thoſe to the northwards; the pine-barrens to the northwards, from the poverty of the ſoil, do not anſwer the neceſſary expence of clearing. The cloſeneſs of the trees hinders the graſs from growing under them, ſo that large tracts of land are no further uſeful than to make pitch and tar: whereas in Florida, as the trees ſtand at a greater diſtance, and both the rains and dews are more frequent than to the northwards,

the pine-barrens are covered with good graſs of a perpetual verdure.

In paſſing through this part of Florida, we find thoſe plains frequently divided by the ſwamps above-mentioned, which being full of foreſt-trees diverſify the aſpect of the country, as they form ſo many thick woods.

The ſwamps are from half a mile to a mile broad, and from two to five miles long; the depth of the water is various, but is ſuch that in travelling they are uſually rode through without much difficulty.

From St. John's river ſouthwards to St. Auguſtine is 45 miles, the country is much the ſame as has been juſt deſcribed, but not quite ſo good, the ſwamps being neither ſo frequent nor ſo large.

Before we ſpeak of St. Auguſtine, it will be proper to take ſome notice of the river St. John's, the principal river of this province in point of utility and beauty, and not inferior to any in America. The ſource of this river, which is not exactly aſcertained, is in all probability near the capes of Florida; it paſſes through five

lakes,

lakes, the loweſt of them is called by the Indians the great lake; it is 20 miles long and 15 broad, has eight feet water; there are ſeveral iſlands in it, and it is now called lake George; it is 170 miles from the mouth of the river. In going down from hence the firſt European habitation is Mr. Spalding's, an Indian trader's ſtore-houſe: 15 miles lower is Mr. Rolle's ſettlement; the whole diſtance from the lake to Mr. Rolle's is 45 miles, and the country between the beſt diſcovered yet upon the river. The tropical fruits and plants are found in great abundance, and afford the ſtrongeſt evidence that both the ſoil and climate are fit for ſugar, cotton, indigo, and other Weſt-India productions. Mr. Rolle's plantation is well ſituated on the eaſtern banks, and is the moſt conſiderable upon this river, which is here very narrow; 25 miles from Mr. Rolle's, downward, is Piccolata, a ſmall fort with a garriſon, the river is here three miles broad.

The bar at low water is nine feet deep, its channel up to lake George is much deeper; the breadth is very unequal, from

a quarter of a mile to three miles. The tide riſes at the bar from five to eight feet, and two feet at Mr. Rolle's, though 125 miles from the ſea. There are neither ſhallows nor any rapidity in the river; the current, owing to the flatneſs of the country, is very gentle, and veſſels may go up the river almoſt as eaſy as down, for 200 miles; there is perhaps no river in the world more commodious for navigation.

St. Mark's river takes its riſe near the mouth of St. John's river, runs from north to ſouth parallel with the ſea, till it empties itſelf into the harbour of St. Auguſtine: from the flatneſs of the country, there are many ſalt marſhes on both ſides of the river, almoſt up to its ſource; theſe marſhes may be eaſily defended from the tides, and will make very rich lands, either for rice, indigo, or hemp.

We come now to the harbour of St. Auguſtine, which would be one of the beſt in America, were it not for its bar, which will not admit veſſels of great bur-

den,

den, as it has but eight feet water *. The bar is ſurrounded by breakers, that have a formidable appearance when you enter it, but is not ſo dangerous as it appears, on account of the bar being very ſhort: ſince the government has appointed a good pilot, no veſſels have been loſt upon it. There is a road on the north ſide of the bar, with good anchorage, for ſuch ſhips as draw too much water to go into the harbour.

A neck of the main land to the north, and a point of Anaſtaſia iſland to the ſouth, form the entrance of the port. Oppoſite to the entrance lies Fort St. Mark's, ſo called from the river it lies upon; this fort is a regular quadrangle, with four baſtions, a ditch fifty feet wide, with a covert-way, places of arms, and a glacis: the entrance of the gate is defended by a raveline; it is caſe-mated all round, and bomb-proof: the works are entirely of hewn ſtone, and being finiſhed according to the modern taſte of military architecture, it makes a very

* It is neceſſary to obſerve, that the depth of the bars of the harbours on the eaſtern ſhore of Eaſt-Florida, cannot be exactly aſcertained, as the tides there are chiefly regulated by the winds; a ſtrong weſterly wind will make but ſix feet, and an eaſterly wind 12 feet water upon the bar of St. Auguſtine, at low water.

very handſome appearance, and may be juſtly deemed the prettieſt fort in the king's dominions.

The town of St. Auguſtine is ſituated near the glacis of the fort, on the weſt ſide of the harbour; it is an oblong ſquare, the ſtreets are regularly laid out, and interſect each other at right angles, they are built narrow on purpoſe to afford ſhade. The town is above half a mile in length, regularly fortified with baſtions, half-baſtions, and a ditch; beſides theſe works it has another ſort of fortification, very ſingular, but well adapted againſt the enemy the Spaniards had moſt to fear: it conſiſts of ſeveral rows of palmetto trees, planted very cloſe along the ditch, up to the parapet; their pointed leaves are ſo many chevaux de frieze, that make it entirely impenetrable; the two ſouthern baſtions are built of ſtone. In the middle of the town is a ſpacious ſquare called the parade, open towards the harbour: at the bottom of this ſquare is the governor's houſe, the apartments of which are ſpacious and ſuited to the climate, with high windows, a balcony in front, and galleries on both ſides;

to

to the back part of the houſe is joined a tower, called in America a look-out, from which there is an extenſive proſpect towards the ſea, as well as inland. There are two churches within the walls of the town, the pariſh church a plain building, and another belonging to the convent of Franciſcan friars, which is converted into barracks for the garriſon. The houſes are built of free-ſtone, commonly two ſtories high, two rooms upon a floor, with large windows and balconies: before the entry of moſt of the houſes runs a portico of ſtone arches; the roofs are commonly flat. The Spaniards conſulted conveniency more than taſte in their buildings; the number of houſes in the Spaniards time, in the town, and within the lines, was above 900; many of them, eſpecially in the ſuburbs, being built of wood or palmetto leaves, are now gone to decay. The inhabitants of all colours, white, negroes, mulattos, Indians, &c. at the evacuation of St. Auguſtine, amounted to 5700, the garriſon included, conſiſting of 2500 men. Half a mile from the town, to the weſt, is a line with a broad ditch and baſtions, running from St. Sebaſtian's creek to St. Mark's river: a mile

further is another fortified line, with ſome redoubts, forming a ſecond communication between a ſtoccata fort upon St. Sebaſtian's river, and fort Moſa upon the river St. Mark's.

Within the firſt line, near the town, was a ſmall ſettlement of Germans, who had a church of their own. Upon St. Mark's river, within the ſame line, was alſo an Indian town, with a church built of free-ſtone, the ſteeple is of good workmanſhip and taſte, though built by the Indians: the lands belonging to this townſhip, the governor has given as glebe-lands to the pariſh church.

The land about Auguſtine, in all appearance the worſt in the province, is yet far from being unfruitful; it produces two crops of Indian corn a year; the garden vegetables are in great perfection; the orange and lemon trees grow here, without cultivation, to a larger ſize, and produce better fruit than in Spain or Portugal.

Oppoſite to the town of St. Auguſtine, lies the iſland of Anaſtaſia; this iſland is about 25 miles in length, and divided from the

the main land by a narrow channel, called Matanza river, though in reality, an arm of the ſea: the ſoil is but indifferent; at preſent it is uſed for paſturage; but having ſome creeks and ſwamps in ſeveral parts, may in time be cultivated to advantage.

At the north end of this iſland is a watch-tower, or look-out, built of white ſtone, which ſerves alſo as a land-mark for veſſels at ſea. At the approach of any veſſels, ſignals are made from this tower to the fort; a few ſoldiers do duty there on that account. A quarry of whitiſh ſtone is oppoſite to Auguſtine, of which the fort and houſes are built: ſtone quarries are very rare in the ſouthern parts of America, which makes this of Anaſtaſia the more valuable; the ſtone is manifeſtly a concretion of ſmall ſhells petrified; it is ſoft under ground, but becomes very hard and durable by being expoſed to the air.

Going ſouthwards from Auguſtine, at the diſtance of a mile and a half, we come to St. Sebaſtian's creek; this ſtream takes its riſe five miles north of Auguſtine, and after making a ſweep to the weſt, empties itſelf into the ſea at this place: near the

mouths of this creek are extenſive ſalt-water marſhes, overflown at high tides, which may be eaſily taken in; higher inland are fine ſwamps.

We come next to Wood-cutters creek, which riſes 15 miles north of Auguſtine, and after deſcribing a ſemicircle to the weſt, much like Sebaſtian's creek, but with a larger ſweep, empties itſelf into the ſea, ſix miles below Auguſtine; the lands upon this creek conſiſt of very good ſwamps and highlands.

At the Matanzas, 15 miles ſouth of Wood-cutters creek, is a ſmall fort and harbour, fit for coaſting veſſels. The harbour is oppoſite the ſouth point of Anaſtaſia iſland, where there is a ſecond watch-tower. The ſoil between Wood-cutters creek and the Matanzas is tolerably good, on account of ſeveral creeks and ſwamps.

From the Matanzas we come to Halifax river, which, like St. Mark's above mentioned, runs parallel to the ſea, and is ſeparated from it only by a ſandy beach, in ſome parts a mile, in others two miles broad. This beach or bank ſeems to be formed by the ſands; which, either by hurri-

hurricanes, or in a courſe of ages, have been waſhed up by the ſea. The ſource of this river, though certainly not very far from St. John's river, is not as yet well aſcertained: before it reaches Muſquito inlet, Tomoko river falls into it; this river runs from weſt to eaſt; from this river to St. John's is only four miles land-carriage.

From the Matanzas to Muſquito inlet is 40 miles: at this place, Hillſborough river, coming from the ſouth, and Hallifax river from the north, meet, and are both diſcharged here into the ſea: the bar of this harbour has eight feet at low water.

I do not know any country beſides Eaſt-Florida, where rivers have been obſerved to run parallel to the ſea, where two ſtreams, as thoſe laſt mentioned, meet each other from direct oppoſite quarters; and what is ſtill more remarkable, where two rivers, as the Hallifax, and St. John's, at ſo ſmall a diſtance, flow different ways, the ſtream of which run parallel to each other, one to the ſouth, the other to the north.

About Muſquito inlet the country is low, and chiefly ſalt-marſh; what high-

land

land there is, is covered with cabbage-trees, papaw-tree, and other tropic plants, which ſhews that Weſt-India commodities may be raiſed here. The weſtern banks of Hallifax and Hillſborough rivers contain a great deal of excellent land; the many orange groves, (which denote former Spaniſh ſettlements) and the frequent remains of Indian towns, ſhews that they have been once well inhabited. We are as yet unacquainted with the ſources of moſt of the rivers in Eaſt-Florida, and particularly that of Hillſborough river; it is generally believed to have a communication with an Indian inlet, called by the Spaniards Rio Days, 60 miles to the ſouth, where there is ſuch another harbour as Muſquito, with eight feet water; it is ſaid to communicate with St. John's river.

Between Indian river, and the capes of Florida, are ſeveral rivers and harbours, but as they are not as yet actually ſurveyed, it would be preſumption in me, to impoſe the reports of the Indians upon the public as certain truth. We may conſider the ſouthern parts of the peninſula, and

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the weſtern coaſt (the bay of Tampa excepted) as terra incognita, till the ſurveyor-general of the ſouthern diſtrict of America, has completed the actual ſurvey of the coaſt and rivers.

SECT. III.

Climate.

The climate of Eaſt-Florida is an agreeable medium betwixt the ſcorching heat of the tropics, and the pinching cold of the northern latitudes. All America, to the north of the river Potomak, is greatly incommoded by the ſeverities of the weather for two or three months in the winter: In Eaſt-Florida there is indeed a change of the ſeaſons, but it is a moderate one; in November and December many trees loſe their leaves, vegetation goes on ſlowly, and the winter is perceived. In the northern parts of the province a ſlight froſt happened laſt year, the firſt known there in the memory of man: I do not find upon enquiry, that ſnow has ever been ſeen there; the winters are ſo mild, that the

Spaniards at Auguſtine had neither chimneys in their houſes, nor glaſs windows. The tendereſt plants of the Weſt-Indies, ſuch as the plantain, the allegator pear-tree, the banana, the pine-apple or ananas, the ſugar-cane, &c. remain unhurt during the winter, in the gardens of St. Auguſtine.

The fogs and dark gloomy weather, ſo common in England, are unknown in this country. At the equinoxes, eſpecially the autumnal, the rains fall very heavy every day, betwixt eleven o'clock in the morning, and four in the afternoon, for ſome weeks together; when a ſhower is over, the ſky does not continue cloudy, but always clears up, and the ſun appears again: the mildneſs of the ſeaſons, and purity of the air, are probably the cauſe of the healthineſs of this country.

By the beſt accounts of the firſt diſcovery of Eaſt-Florida, it appears to have been nearly as full of inhabitants as Peru and Mexico; and theſe accounts are, in ſome meaſure, verified, by the frequent remains we find of Indian towns throughout the peninſula. The natives are deſcribed

ſcribed to have been larger, and of a ſtronger make than the Mexico Indians.

When the Spaniards quitted Auguſtine, many of them were of a great age, ſome above ninety: the Spaniſh women were obſerved to be more prolific here than in Old Spain, where they are generally accounted but indifferent breeders.

The inhabitants of the Spaniſh ſettlements in America conſider Eaſt-Florida, with reſpect to its healthineſs, in the ſame light that we do the ſouth of France; and they looked upon Auguſtine as the Montpelier of America: the Spaniards, from the Havannah and elſewhere, have frequently reſorted thither for the benefit of their health.

Since it came into the hands of Great-Britain, many gentlemen have experienced the happy effects of its climate: Mr. Dunnet, the ſecretary of the province, and Mr. Wilſon, a merchant there, both in a deep conſumption, have aſcribed the recovery of their health to the climate.

It is an indiſputable fact, which can be proved by the monthly returns of the ninth regiment, in garriſon in Eaſt-Flori-

da, that it did not loſe one ſingle man by natural death in the ſpace of 20 months; and as this regiment does duty in the ſeveral forts, at different diſtances from Auguſtine, St. Mark's d' Apalachie at 200 miles, Piccolata 30, Matanzas 20, it proves in the moſt ſatisfactory manner, that the climate is healthy in the different parts of the province.

The peninſula of Florida is not broad, and as it lies betwixt two ſeas, the air is cooler, and oftener refreſhed with rains, than on the continent: the entire abſence of the ſun for eleven hours makes the dews heavy, and gives the earth time to cool; ſo that the nights in ſummer are leſs ſultry here than in the northern latitude, where the ſun ſhines upon the earth for ſeventeen or eighteen hours out of the twenty-four. The heat, which in South-Carolina, and in the ſouthern part of Europe, is ſometimes intolerable for want of wind, is here mitigated by a never-failing ſea-breeze in the day-time, and a land-wind at night. It is only in and near the tropicks that the ſea and land-breezes are at all uniform or to be depended upon.

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The white people work in the fields in the heat of the day without prejudice to their health; gentlemen frequently ride out for pleaſure in the middle of the day; and governor Grant is regularly on horſe-back every day from eleven to three o'clock in the afternoon.

SECT. IV.

Natural Productions.

Having already taken notice of the ſoil and climate, upon which all vegetation depends, I ſhall now proceed to the vegetable productions of Eaſt-Florida.

In no one part of the Britiſh dominions is there found ſo great a variety of trees, plants and ſhrubs, as in Eaſt-Florida; which, I ſuppoſe, is entirely owing to the temperature of the climate, in which the productions of the northern and ſouthern latitudes ſeem to flouriſh together. Without attempting to enumerate all the foreſt-trees, I ſhall only take notice of ſuch as are moſt uſeful.

The white pine grows to a conſiderable ſize, and is fit for maſts, planks, and other timber for houſe-building.

The red pine is a heavy wood, full of rezin, and moſt fit for pitch and tar; its bark is of great uſe for tanning.

The ſpruce fir here is quite a different tree from that to the northward, but anſwers the ſame end for making the ſpruce beer. Theſe different ſorts of fir demand a ſandy ſoil, that has a clay, or other ſtrong earth beneath it.

The white cedar: of this tree are made boards, ſhingles, clapboards, and ſtaves for dry caſks.

The red cedar is uſed for poſts and boards, the trunk is ſeldom above 14 feet high, and the limbs are uſually crooked, and very proper for ſhip-building.

The cypreſs tree grows to a greater ſize here than to the northward; and being larger than any other tree, is uſed for making canoes.

The live oak (ſo called from being an evergreen) is tougher, and of a better grain than the Engliſh oak, and is highly eſteemed for ſhip-building.

The cheſnut oak, very little known in other parts of America, is very common in Florida. Its leaf is like that of a horſe-cheſnut, the acorn it bears is two inches long, and in taſte like a cheſnut: it affords excellent maſt for hogs, and is an exceeding good timber.

Mahagony grows only in the ſouthern and interior parts of the peninſula; it is in ſize and quality inferior to the Jamaica, but good enough to become an article of trade: the wood-cutters from Providence, one of the Bahama iſlands, come to Eaſt-Florida to cut mahagony, and carry it off clandeſtinely.

Red bays: this tree ſeems a baſtard mahagony, and is not yet known in Europe; it may come into repute in time, when the beſt of mahagony is become ſtill more ſcarce.

The walnut, and hiccory (which is a ſpecies of walnut) are ſo common, that they, with the cheſnut-tree, though beautiful woods, are ordinarily uſed for firewood: they afford good maſt for hogs.

Black cherry-tree, is a beautiful wood, the tree bigger than in Europe, the fruit ſmall and of little uſe.

Maple: its wood is of a fine variegated grain, fit for cabinet-work. In the ſpring they tap it, in order to make ſugar of its juice.

The aſh, locuſt, and dog-wood-trees are here in abundance, and fit for the mill, or wheelwrights work, and other ordinary purpoſes.

The mulberry-tree, both the red and white, are natives of the country, the foreſts are full of them; they grow here to a larger ſize than in any other country.

The leaf of this tree being the food of the ſilk-worm, and the climate perfectly adapted to that tender inſect, I ſhall, in a proper place, make ſome obſervations upon the cultivation of ſilk.

The fuſtic and braſiletto, uſeful as dying woods, are likewiſe found in Eaſt-Florida.

Saſſafras of Florida was always reckoned the beſt in America.

Balſam-tree, of the ſize and with leaves like the ſycamore tree in England, yields the true balſam of Tolu.

The magnolia, tulip-laurel, tupelow-tree, are all beautiful, and very ornamental in gardens and pleaſure-grounds.

Fruit-Trees.

It is obſervable in America, that though no country has a greater variety of valuable foreſt-trees, yet there are but few fruit-trees, natives of the continent, worth mentioning.

All the fruit-trees (an indifferent ſort of plumb, and a ſmall black cherry excepted) have been imported from Europe, and thrive exceeding well. In Florida, a ſtranger cannot help being ſtruck with the luxuriancy of the orange-tree; it is larger in ſize, and produces greater abundance and better flavoured fruit than in Spain or Portugal: this tree is ſo well adapted to the climate, that it has ſpread itſelf every-where, and is ſo far from a rarity, that the inhabitants, not apprehenſive of ſcarcity, frequently cut down the tree in order to gather the fruit.

The lemons, limes, citrons, pomegranates, figs, apricots, peach, &c. grow here in high perfection.

SHRUBS and PLANTS.

The myrtle-wax ſhrub is, without doubt, the moſt uſeful of the ſpontaneous growth of America; it is found in all ſorts of ſoil, and in ſuch plenty in Eaſt-Florida, that were there hands enough to gather the berries, they could ſupply all England with wax: the proceſs of making it is very ſimple; they bruiſe the berries, boil them in water, and ſkim the wax off, which is naturally of a bright green colour, but may be bleached like bees-wax, and, on account of its hardneſs, is well adapted for candles in hot countries.

Of the opuntia, or prickly pear, are different ſpecies in Eaſt-Florida; on one ſort, with a ſmooth leaf, is the cochineal inſect, found in incredible plenty: of the fruit of the other ſpecies, is made a vegetable cochineal, which may be uſed in ordinary purpoſes inſtead of the true cochineal.

The vines, the ſenna ſhrub, ſarſaparilla, China-root, wild indigo, water and muſk-melons, are indigenous plants of Eaſt-Florida.

I cannot omit mentioning a herb of the growth of Eaſt-Florida, of which, as yet, very little notice has been taken, notwithſtanding the great advantage that may be derived from it: this herb reſembles entirely our ſamphire in England, and is called barilla or kaly; it is the ſame of which in Spain the pearl-aſhes are made, in the manner as the kelp in Scotland; the ſea-coaſt, marſhes, and low-lands, overflown at high tides, are covered with it here in Florida.

Animals.

There is no animal of this country better worth mentioning than the deer, which is found in great plenty; the deer-ſkins are, at preſent, the only article of exportation of Eaſt-Florida.

The buffalo is found in the ſavannahs, or natural meadows, in the interior parts of Eaſt-Florida: the peculiarity of the American buffalo is, that inſtead of hair, it is covered with a fine frizzled wool.

The bear in America is conſidered not as a fierce, carnivorous, but as an uſeful

animal; it feeds in Florida upon grapes, cheſnuts, acorns, &c. It is reckoned very good food, eſpecially the bear hams, &c.

The racoon is a ſpecies of the bear, but ſmaller; he is of the ſize and colour of a badger, and is eſteemed very delicate eating.

Hares are very plenty, but not bigger than an Engliſh rabbit.

I have mentioned but a few of the moſt uſeful of wild animals: (if we except the mooſe-deer and beaver) Eaſt-Florida has all the wild animals common to America; though I muſt acknowledge, that the ſkins of thoſe of the fur kind are of little value, the climate being too hot for them.

As to the domeſtic animals, they are, in general, the ſame that we have in Europe; the horned cattle as big as in England, eſpecially in the inland parts.

The horſes are of the Spaniſh breed, of great ſpirit, but little ſtrength; they are ſeldom above 14 hands high: the Indians here, by mixing the Spaniſh breed with the Carolina, have excellent horſes, both for ſervice and beauty.

From the great plenty of fine maſt, the hogs grow here to an uncommon ſize; and their fleſh is fatter and better than in any other country.

Sheep, goats, and caprittos, thrive here very well, but muſt be ſecured at night againſt the wolves and foxes, till the country is better ſettled.

Birds.

Florida, on account of its climate, has a great variety of birds; immenſe numbers migrate thither in winter, to avoid the cold of the northern latitudes. In the woods are plenty of wild turkeys, which are better taſted, as well as larger, than our tame ones in England.

The pheaſant is in ſize like the European, its plumage like that of our partridge. The American partridge is not much bigger than a quail, and ſeems to be of that ſpecies.

The wild pigeons, for three months in the Year, are in ſuch plenty here, that an account of them would ſeem incredible.

All the different ſorts of water-fowls belonging to America, (the ſwan excepted) are found here in the greateſt abundance.

Fish.

The rivers of the ſouthern provinces of North-America abound greatly with fiſh, but Florida rather more than any other: thoſe moſtly made uſe of, are the baſs, mullet, different ſorts of rays, and flat-fiſh, cat-fiſh, ſea-trout, and black-fiſh.

Of ſhell-fiſh: ſeveral ſorts of crabs, prawns, and ſhrimps, of an extraordinary ſize.

The oyſters are ſo plentiful here, that nothing is more common, than at low water, to ſee whole rocks of them.

There are three ſorts of ſea-turtle common in Eaſt-Florida, the logger-head, hawk's-bill, and green-turtle. There are likewiſe two ſorts of land-turtle, one of them is amphibious, and the other, not ſo, is called a terrapin.

Insects.

INSECTS.

If one conſiders the extent of Eaſt-Florida, and the ſmall number of inhabitants it has had theſe ſixty years, ſince the native Indians were exterminated by the creeks, one would be apt to think it muſt of courſe be overrun with venomous inſects and reptiles: ſeveral writers who mention Florida, have taken it for granted to be ſo; amongſt others, the gentleman who lately wrote major Rogers's Hiſtory of North-America, tells us, Eaſt-Florida would be a fine country, were it not for the innumerable venomous inſects with which it is infeſted: the fact is quite otherwiſe; if we except the allegator, Eaſt-Florida has fewer inſects than any other province in America: during my ſtay there, I ſaw but two black ſnakes; Mr. Rolle, who for eighteen months lived conſtantly in the woods, has ſeen but one rattle-ſnake. If Eaſt-Florida is ſo happy as to have ſo few venomous creatures, it is not owing to a ſupernatural or miraculous cauſe, like the bleſſings of St. Patrick upon Ireland, but to a very plain and natural one, which is,

that the hunting-parties of the Creek Indians, who are diſperſed through the whole province, continually ſet the graſs on fire, for the conveniency of hunting; by which means, not only the inſects but their eggs alſo are deſtroyed.

Allegators are here in great number, they never attack men either in the water or upon land; all the miſchief they do, is carrying off young pigs from the plantations near the rivers.

There is an inſect in Eaſt-Florida, not known in other parts of America, which is a large yellow ſpider; the hind part of his body is bigger than a pigeon's egg, and the reſt in proportion; its web is a true yellow ſilk, ſo ſtrong as to catch ſmall birds, upon which it feeds: the bite of this ſpider is attended with a ſwelling of the part, and great pain, but no danger of life.

A great variety of lizards are found here, ſome of them very beautiful, changing their colour like the cameleon; they are quite a harmleſs inſect.

SECT.

SECT. V.

OF CULTIVATION.

RICE.

From the climate of Florida, and the great variety of tropical, as well as northern productions, that are natives of this country, there is reaſon to expect, that cotton, rice, and indigo, not to mention ſugar, will grow here as well as in any part of the globe. The planters from Carolina, that have viſited Florida, ſince it came into our poſſeſſion, are of opinion, that it is much fitter for the production of rice, even than South-Carolina.

The great peculiarity, and indeed the principal difficulty, attending the cultivation of rice, in a proper climate, ariſes from the neceſſity of laying the ground where it is ſown under water at two ſtated periods. It is manifeſt, that not many ſituations can have this command of water; but from the number of rivers in Florida, and the nature of the country, which approaches to a level without being ſo, it is

eaſy

eaſy to diſcern, that the ſtreams of water can be guided more at pleaſure, than if the inequalities of the ſurface were greater.

Florida is in the ſame latitude with Bengal and China, where rice grows in greater plenty than any where elſe in the world; and when the variety of ſwamps, rivulets, and water-ſide lands are conſidered, we may give credit to what a very knowing and eminent planter of Carolina ſays, who has been up the river St. John's as high as lake George, that the country from that lake to Mr. Rolle's, 45 miles in length, will, in his opinion, yield as much rice as is produced in all South-Carolina.

Where the ſoil and climate is proper for rice, there is no grain in the world yields ſo much profit to a planter.

Cotton.

Since every colony in America ſeems to have, as it were, a ſtaple commodity peculiar to itſelf, as Canada the fur; Maſſachuſets-bay, fiſh; Connecticut, lumber; New-York and Penſylvania, wheat; Virginia and Maryland, tobacco; North-Carolina, pitch and tar; South-Carolina, rice and indigo;

indigo; Georgia, rice and ſilk. I am much diſpoſed to prognoſticate, that cotton will, in time, be a ſtaple commodity in Florida.

The cotton ſhrub is known to thrive beſt in a light ſandy ſoil, and in a climate that has frequent rains: the pine-barrens, and worſt parts of Florida, as well as its climate, are therefore fit for this ſhrub.

It is needleſs to ſay any thing of the utility and importance of cotton as an article of trade; Bengal, and the Coromandel coaſt, in great meaſure, owe their riches to it; the calicoes, chints, muſlins, &c. &c. annually imported by the Eaſt-India company, and ſold at ſuch immenſe profit, are all made of cotton.

The quantity imported from the Weſt-Indies, notwithſtanding the great increaſe lately made in the produce of it at Tortola, one of the Virgin-iſlands belonging to Great-Britain, bears but a ſmall proportion to the whole conſumption. A great demand has raiſed the price of the Turkey cotton from five-pence to ten-pence a pound, and of the Weſt-India, from nine-pence to two ſhillings.

The Manchester manufactures are greatly cramped by the ſcarcity of this commodity, and would be conſiderably extended ſhould cotton become plentiful in England.

A ſmall bounty upon the growth of it in Florida, might be attended with good effect, and be a wiſe encouragement of an infant colony.

Mr. Rolle has planted the cotton-tree in Florida, where he has found it thrive ſo well, as plainly proves the ſoil and climate is adapted to it.

Silk.

With reſpect to the cultivation of ſilk in Florida, there is not the leaſt doubt of the climate being better adapted to the ſilk-worm than any country in Europe, or probably, in America: ſilk abounds much more in India, Perſia, and China, which are in the latitude of Florida, than in Italy.

A conſiderable increaſe has of late been made in the growth of ſilk in Carolina and Georgia; at Puriſburgh, ſilk is become the ſtaple commodity of the place: this

town was ſettled about 40 years ago, by ſome natives of Switzerland; it lies 30 miles eaſt of Savannah.

In Carolina and Georgia the worms are often injured by accidental froſts, and cold mornings, in the ſpring, eſpecially if it is a late one; they are ſometimes actually deſtroyed, and at other times are benumbed and made ſickly for want of warmth: this inconvenience is alſo frequently experienced in Italy: it is almoſt unneceſſary to remark, that the ſouthern ſituation of Florida has placed it out of the reach of this diſaſter.

In Georgia there is often a great deal of thunder and lightning in the ſpring-ſeaſon, which is apt to affect and injure the ſilk-worm; whereas in Florida, where frequent ſhowers refreſh the air, and the ſea-breezes keep it in conſtant agitation, the thunder is neither ſo common or ſo violent: experience will probably ſhew, that this country is as much adapted to the ſilk-worm as to the mulberry-tree, on which it feeds. It has been before obſerved, that this tree grows in its utmoſt luxuriance in all parts of Florida.

SUGAR.

As there is no production of the Weſt-Indies affords a planter ſo much profit as ſugar, there is no doubt but ſugar will ſoon be planted in Florida. The ſugar-cane grew at Auguſtine, and in the truſtees garden in Savannah in Georgia, in as great perfection as in the Weſt-Indies. We are not however yet, for want of experiments, perfectly informed with what degree of ſucceſs ſugar can be raiſed in Florida. It is certain the ſugar-cane is a tender plant, that requires both a good and a moiſt ſoil, as well as a hot climate to bring it to perfection.

The ſugar-cane is not a native of the Weſt-Indies, as is commonly taken for granted; nor will it grow there without art and cultivation.

The common uſe of ſugar in Europe was introduced by the Portugueſe, who tranſplanted it from the Eaſt-Indies into the Madeira iſlands; the ſugar-cane flouriſhed there, and in the Canaries, which are in the latitude of Florida, ſo well, that

all

all Europe was ſupplied from thence with ſugar.

The loaf-ſugar at this day, in Germany, is called Canary-ſugar. Sugar is plentiful and common in Egypt, in parts further from the tropic than Florida. Pliny, the elder, makes it the produce of Arabia and India.

In the neighbourhood of Malaga, ſugar uſed to be raiſed in great abundance, and it is grown in ſome parts of Spain at this day. The ſouth of Spain is ten degrees north of the capes of Florida. The plantane-tree and allegator pear, the tendereſt of the tropical plants, are in full perfection at Auguſtine.

As both the ſoil and climate of Eaſt-Florida ſeem fit for ſugar, one cannot reaſonably doubt, but the cultivation of it will be attended with ſucceſs; and if in ſome reſpects Florida be found inferior to the Weſt-Indies, which I do not expect, it has in other reſpects the advantage of them.

The ſtock of a ſugar planter is not only procured, but ſupported at a vaſt expence; the exceſſive price of labour in the Weſt-

Indies,

Indies, arifing from the unhealthineſs of the climate, and the dearneſs of the neceſſaries of life, virtually amounts to a tax upon the ſugar planter; not only all kind of cloathing, but proviſions too, muſt be imported from Europe, and the northern plantations.

The materials for building, all the lumber required to erect and repair the ſugar works, muſt be fetched from the continent: in Florida they are found upon the ſpot. In the iſlands, the wages of a carpenter, maſon, &c. run up as high as ten ſhillings a day; the natural plenty in Florida will make labour there comparatively cheap.

The overſeer, and other white ſervants, will, beyond all queſtion, be hired much cheaper in a plentiful and good climate, than in a ſcarce and ſickly one.

Not only overſeers and ſervants will be had at a reaſonable price, but horſes, cows, and oxen, may be purchaſed at leſs than one ſixth of the price they bear in the Weſt-Indies. Mules and horſes are there ſold from 20l. to 30l. a-piece: a ſerviceable horſe in Florida may be had for 4l.

The

The price of an ox is no more than 3 l. in Florida. It is not only the prime coſt of the ſtock that differs ſo much in the two countries, but the expence of maintaining it bears the ſame comparative difference; graſs and fodder for the cattle, and corn and fleſh-meat for the ſervants, are very ſcarce in the iſlands, and very plentiful in Florida.

When the ſugar is made, it is often neceſſary, in the Weſt-Indies, to carry it at a great expence by land, a conſiderable diſtance to the ſhipping-places: this expence will be ſaved in Florida, where a planter will be ſure to make his plantation on the ſide of a navigable river.

In Florida the lands are not ſold, as in the ceded iſlands, but given upon conditions, which intereſt leads the grantee to perform; and the reſervation made to the crown is only a halfpenny an acre, after the end of three, five, or ten years, which is regulated by the extent of the grants.

It often happens in the Weſt-Indies, as it did laſt year, that when the ground is prepared, and the cane planted, the rains, or ſeaſons as they are called, fail; as often

as

as this is the caſe, the crop is ruined by drought, a misfortune which is not to be apprehended in Florida.

Indigo.

Both the ſoil and climate of Eaſt-Florida ſeem to ſuit this plant; the Spaniards planted ſome of the guatimala indigo in their gardens at Auguſtine, where I have ſeen, in a poor, ſandy ſoil, indigo plants of a larger ſize, and in a more luxuriant ſtate, than ever I ſaw in South-Carolina in the richeſt and beſt cultivated lands: I was informed the Spaniards cut it four times a year.

Indian Corn.

This grain is the common food in America; the Spaniards being confined within the lines of Auguſtine, uſed to raiſe two crops a year upon the ſame ground; which I mention rather as a mark of the fertility of the ſoil, than of the good huſbandry of the Spaniards: it grows here in almoſt every ſoil.

Hemp.

HEMP.

The large bounties granted by parliament, and the conſiderable premiums by the ſociety of arts and ſciences, will induce ſome of the new ſettlers to cultivate hemp; it requires a freſh, ſtrong, moiſt ſoil: the ſwamps, after being cleared and drained for rice, are fitteſt to be ſown with hemp for the firſt and ſecond year.

VINES.

It is not at all doubtful whether the vine will flouriſh in Florida, becauſe it grows there, and in almoſt all parts of America, ſouth of Delaware, in great plenty. The wild grapes of America are of little worth, they uſually run up the trees of the foreſts, where they are too much ſhaded, and for want of cultivation, of no value.

The dearneſs of labour, and the cheapneſs of foreign wines in America, have both contributed to prevent the planting of vineyards more frequently. The French refugees planted ſome in South-Carolina,

and I have drank a red wine of the growth of that province little inferior to burgundy.

When it is obſerved that the richeſt wines are produced in the iſlands of Madeira and the Canaries, in the iſland of Cyprus, and in other parts of the Levant, lying nearly in the latitude of Eaſt-Florida; it will, probably, not be owing to any defect either in ſoil or climate, but to the dearneſs of labour, or negligence of the inhabitants, if wine is not produced hereafter in ſome plenty upon this continent.

Currants, raiſins, figs, and olives, will moſt probably thrive here whenever they are planted.

Having finiſhed what I had to ſay of the country of Eaſt-Florida, I muſt, before I conclude, add one word more upon the ſubject of procuring inhabitants for it.

The government has acted agreeably to the wiſe and maſculine ſpirit of its policy, in laying the new foundation of ſeveral extenſive colonies. Civil as well as military eſtabliſhments have been provided theſe three years for the two Florida's, at an expence of near 100,000 l. a year; but

ſtill the inhabitants of both of them put together, (ſoldiers and ſavages excepted) would make but a thin congregation in a ſmall pariſh-church.

If the government reſolves not to ſtir one ſtep further, it has gone already a great deal too far; Florida, without inhabitants, is ſo much worſe than nothing, that Great-Britain loſes near 100,000 l. a year by it.

Governments, garriſons, eſtabliſhments civil and military, without inhabitants, or any meaſures taken to procure them, ſeems ſomething ſtrange. It is very unuſual to take all the meaſures requiſite to a particular end but one, and to neglect a ſingle one, which being omitted, renders all the reſt abortive.

If a farmer ſhould purchaſe an eſtate, hire ſervants, prepare the ground for ſowing, have the ſeed-corn ready, and ſtill ſave the expence of putting it in the ground, his neighbours would laugh heartily at him. Rice, cotton, and indigo, will grow in Eaſt-Florida, whenever they are put in the ground, but they will not grow without. We muſt not expect becauſe a country is a good one, that it therefore

will work miracles, and without ſo much as ſowing the teeth of Cadmus's ſerpent *, of itſelf produce the human ſpecies.

If Eaſt-Florida ſettles itſelf, which it is left to do, it will be the firſt colony on the continent that ever did ſo: the fact, as far as experience goes, overturns the theory.

Notwithſtanding every wiſe and generous meaſure is taken by governor Grant for the good of Eaſt-Florida, yet his proclamation to invite new ſettlers, dated the 1ſt of October, 1764, has not been hitherto, attended with any viſible effect. When we conſider the amount of the preſent eſtabliſhments for that country, it ſeems to be bad oeconomy to ſtay for years, in order to ſee whether Florida will ſettle itſelf or not. None of the American provinces are ſo well peopled, as to ſpare inhabitants; and were any of the inhabitants to the northward diſpoſed to go to Florida, it is, with reſpect to the migration of families, quite inacceſſible by land, for want of roads, and ferrys to paſs the ſeveral large rivers; and ſuch inhabitants as may be willing to ſeek a new habitation, cannot

* Ovid. iv. Metam.

not afford the expence of conveying themſelves and families by ſea.

Neither is Florida likely to be ſettled by inhabitants from Europe, unleſs the goverment will defray the expences, and pay the paſſage, for men who have neither money nor credit to convey themſelves thither. Will any man go from Europe to Florida at his own expence, when he can go to South-Carolina paſſage free, and have lands given him when he gets there, without any expence; and beſides this, be ſupplied with neceſſaries and proviſion for a twelvemonth. South-Carolina, though ſettled above a century, is ſtill at an expence of 4000l. a year, as a bounty given upon the importation of foreign proteſtants*: we ought to follow their

* By foreign ſettlers is to be underſtood, 1. Germans from the Rhine, Moſelle, and other parts, where they cultivate vineyards. 2. Proteſtants from the ſouthern provinces of France, uſed to the culture of ſilk, olives, vines, &c. 3. Inhabitants of the iſlands of Greece, and the Archipelago; they are a very ſober, induſtrious people, well ſkilled in the cultivation of cotton, vines, raiſins, currants, olives, almonds, and ſilk-worms: tne ſoil and climate of Eaſt-Florida is adapted to every one of theſe articles.

Without doubt, many of my readers, eſpecially thoſe unacquainted with America, will be apt to aſk, why ſhould

their example, and not content ourſelves with the name only of governments and colonies.

Should the parliament of Great-Britain give only the ſame bounty that Carolina gives, Eaſt-Florida would ſtand a chance at leaſt, of becoming inhabited; the healthineſs and fertility of this country will be known by degrees; and I do not doubt, but foreigners may be induced to go thither upon the ſame terms they are tempted to go to other colonies. I believe ſeveral perſons of note intend to apply for grants of land in Eaſt-Florida, with a view of raiſing ſugar, or other articles there, by the

ſhould we make choice of foreigners, and not of our own ſubjects? to which I would anſwer, that theſe foreigners, when ſettled in an Engliſh colony, are no longer foreigners, but ſubjects to Great-Britain. It would be very impolitic to encourage, or ſo much as to countenance the emigration of induſtrious huſbandmen, and uſeful manufacturers; and thoſe which are either chargeable, or uſeleſs to the public here in England, will be much more ſo in a new colony; beſides, experience convinces us, that foreigners are the fitteſt people to ſettle America. The provinces of Penſylvania, New-York, and New-Jerſeys, chiefly inhabited by Germans and Dutch, are the beſt peopled, and the moſt wealthy upon the continent, notwithſtanding the little value their produce is of, in compariſon to the ſouthern colonies: and it is undoubtedly true, that the flouriſhing ſtate America is in, is chiefly owing to the continual importation of foreign ſettlers.

the help of negroes: and it is alſo true, that the condition of each grant, requires the having one white inhabitant to 100 acres of land; but it is ſurely impolitic, to make the actual ſettling of new colonies depend upon a ſlight and precarious foundation, without aſſiſting the laudable deſigns of thoſe who apply for grants, and ſeconding their views, by promoting the importation of foreign proteſtants, to ſupply them with cheap ſervants, and uſeful labourers.

At a time when public oeconomy is abſolutely neceſſary, I do not wiſh to ſee ſuch ſums expended to ſettle Florida, as has been done with reſpect to Nova-Scotia; but ſince a method of encouraging foreigners to ſettle in America has been ſometime practiſed, and experience has ſhewn it to be both frugal and efficacious, I flatter myſelf the adminiſtration will adopt the ſyſtem of Carolina, or ſome other equally expedient.

The amount of the civil eſtabliſhment in Eaſt-Florida, is 5700 l. a year, granted by parliament: If Great-Britain ſhould diſpoſe of an equal ſum, to encourage the

ſet-

ſettling of the colony, and allow only 2500 l. to be paid as a bounty of 4 l. per head to the maſter of the ſhip, for every foreign proteſtant imported to ſettle in Eaſt-Florida; to allow 2500 l. more, to ſupply the new ſettlers with proviſion for nine months, and the remaining 700 l. to be diſtributed at the diſcretion of the governor, in provincial premiums, upon the growth of cotton, hemp, ſilk, and vines.

Should this be done, his majeſty's governors may have the pleaſure of diſtributing juſtice, and his generals affording ſafety to the king's ſubjects, that may hereafter be found in that colony.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

IN order that perſons unacquainted with the author, may have other teſtimonies beſides his own, relative to matters contained in the aforegoing ſheets, he has thought proper to inſert the following extracts of letters and accounts, which it is in his power to authenticate, if neceſſary.

Extract of a proclamation, by his excellency James Grant, Eſq; governor of Eaſt-Florida.

'And whereas it may greatly contribute to the ſpeedy ſettling of this his majeſty's province, to inform all perſons of the healthineſs, ſoil, and productions thereof; I do, in this proclamation further publiſh, and make known, that the former inhabitants lived to great ages; his majeſty's troops, ſince their taking poſſeſſion of it, have enjoyed an uninterrupted ſtate of good health: fevers, which are ſo common during the autumn, in other parts of Ame-

rica, are unknown here. The winter is ſo remarkably temperate, that vegetables of all kinds are raiſed during that ſeaſon without any art.

The ſoil on the coaſt is in general ſandy, but productive with proper cultivation. The lands are rich and fertile in the interior parts of the province, and on the ſides of the rivers, which are numerous. Fruits and grains may be raiſed with little labour: the late inhabitants had often two crops of Indian corn in one year, and the breeder here will be under no neceſſity of laying up fodder for the winter; for there is at all times ſufficient quantity of paſture to maintain his cattle.

The indigo plant remains unhurt for ſeveral years, and may be cut four times in a ſeaſon. Wild indigo is found here in great abundance; which, with proper cultivation, is eſteemed in the French iſlands to be the beſt.

From the great luxuriancy of all the Weſt-Indian weeds, found in the ſouthern part of this province, it is not to be doubted, but that all the fruits and productions of the Weſt-Indies may be raiſed here; though

though either from want of induſtry of the late inhabitants, or from the frequent interruptions they met with from the Indians, no improvements of that kind were ever attempted. Oranges, limes, lemons, and other fruits, grow ſpontaneouſly over the country.

This province abounds with mahagony, and all kind of lumber, fit for tranſportation, or ſhip-building; and the conveyance of the commodities, or productions hereof, will be attended with little expence, as there is water-carriage every where.'

Abſtract of a letter from an eminent planter in South-Carolina, to a noble lord in England, dated, Charles-town, Auguſt 27, 1765.

'Soon after my arrival at Auguſtine, I ſet out for St. Juan's river, and arrived that evening at Piccolata, a ſmall fort upon the banks of St. Juan's; next morning we proceeded up the river as far as Mr. Rolle's town, which may be about 30 miles from Piccolata: the land on both ſides of the river is very indifferent, except ſome ſpots

here and there; but at Mr. Rolle's the good land begins. After ſtaying one night at Mr. Rolle's, we ſet out for Lake George, went that day as far as Spalding's ſtore, and next day arrived at Lake George, which is 20 miles long, and 15 broad. From Mr. Rolle's to Lake George, which is near 50 miles, is one continued body of excellent land; I may ſay the beſt in the king's dominions. This tract alone is capable of producing yearly more rice than the whole province of South-Carolina has ever yet produced in a year: theſe lands ſeem to me more adapted to rice and indigo, than any thing elſe: it is better land than mine at Winyaw, which is reckoned ſome of the beſt in South-Carolina. We intended to croſs the lake, but the wind blowing freſh, and we in an open boat, it was not thought ſafe to venture, and therefore turned back, after ſtaying one night and a day. Our guide, who was a man of credit, informed us, that after you paſs over Lake George, there was good land on each ſide of the river for 50 miles; when you meet with another lake, not quite ſo large as lake George: when that is croſſed, the

country, as far as you can ſee, on both ſides of the river, is a freſh water marſh: for 40 miles higher up, theſe marſhes are extraordinary rich lands; here the river begins to be ſhallow, but from the mouth to this place, it is the beſt and ſafeſt navigation I ever have ſeen. At this place, in a ſtill evening, the ſurf of the ſea is heard, and plenty of ſea-birds are ſeen in the river; which is a ſign it cannot be above ſeven or eight miles from the ſea.

In coming down the river, within a few miles from Mr. Rolle's, we pitched upon an iſland where we landed, and examined it; it may contain about 14 or 1500 acres; a ridge of high lands runs acroſs, on which is a continued grove of orange-trees, live-oak, wild cherries, and magnolia; on each ſide of this ridge, is as fine a body of rich low lands as any in the world. Near this iſland is a tract of very good land, ſeparated from it by a creek of about 40 yards wide, and deep enough for any ſhip. Great plenty of freſh water fiſh is here in the river, and abundance of ducks, and wild turkies upon the iſland. I ſhall return to Eaſt-Florida next November, and carry negroes with

me;

me; as the governor will not grant us our land, till the negroes are arrived in the province.

St. Auguſtine, May 1, 1765.

'SIR,

'In conſequence of your deſire, and your purpoſe to bring to Eaſt-Florida foreign proteſtants, in caſe I could aſſure you the land to be good, and fit for cultivation; in anſwer to which, I acquaint you, that, by order of the lords of trade, and virtue of my appointment, as ſurveyor-general of the ſouthern diſtrict of North-America, I have made, ſince January, an exact ſurvey of the land, and ſea-coaſt, from St. Auguſtine towards the cape of Florida, as far as latitude 26. 40. the ſpecial charts of which, as well as a general map, with my journal, I have tranſmitted to the board of trade; and make no doubt will be publiſhed for the inſtruction of ſuch as are of your good diſpoſition. You may inform thoſe, who chooſe to become inhabitants of Eaſt-Florida, at this favourable juncture of its beginning, that the firſt comers will have great advantages in

the

the choice of their land. There is variety of ſoil in Eaſt-Florida; the high lands, ſome very rich, with a clay foundation; ſome leſs, with a ſandy bottom, and ſome quite ſandy: the firſt and ſecond produce oranges ſweet and ſour, lemons, oak, aſh, red bay, ſpice-tree, papaw-tree, and pine; the third ſort of ſoil produces the cabbage-tree, the arboreous grape-vine, the plumb-tree, and opuntia, on which the cochineal worm is nouriſhed.

The low lands are partly cypreſs and tupelow ſwamps, partly freſh water marſh, without any tree, except cedar, on the foot of the high lands; partly ſalt-water marſh, full of the barilla, and the mangrove-tree. There is an inland navigation moſtly thro' the whole province, by which the produce may be conveyed to the capes, or to St. Mary's river to the northward.'

Abſtract of a letter from a gentleman in Auguſtine, to his friend in London.

'SIR,

'According to your deſire, I made all poſſible enquiry about the proper place to take up a tract of land; but have not till lately,

lately, been able to get ſatisfaction on that head. I am informed, by a gentleman living upon St. John's, that the lands on that river, below Piccolata, are, in general, good; and that there is growing there now, good wheat, Indian corn, indigo, and cotton; that the indigo promiſes well for a good crop; and indeed there is all reaſon to believe, that this will exceed either Carolina or Georgia for indigo, as our climate is ſo much leſs affected by the froſt than theirs. I am farther informed, by one of the principal planters in Carolina, who came here to take up land, that above Piccolata, for 40 miles along the river, is as good ſwamp, or rice land, as any in Carolina: this gentleman is come to live here, as he finds Eaſt-Florida much healthier than South-Carolina, and that it is ſo, is the opinion of every body: agues and fevers are diſorders hardly known here. Some gentlemen are gone to the ſouthwards, to a place called Muſquito, to take up land, as there is great expectation of ſugar; as in that part they never have any froſt, and the ſoil naturally produces the Weſt-Indian plants. You will find

your

your grant no inconſiderable matter, as it has all the appearance we ſhall make a figure here in time, if we are properly encouraged from home. It is true, the bar of Auguſtine is a great bar to our hopes; it has a dreadful appearance to ſtrangers, though if a veſſel draws but eight or nine feet water, it may ſafely come over.

It is not expenſive living here; all kind of proviſion is cheaper here than in England; and houſe-rent exceſſive cheap, and good houſes they are, though built in the Spaniſh faſhion, which is the propereſt for this country.

For the gratification and inſtruction of ſuch of my readers as may be inclined to petition for a grant, or to take up land in Eaſt-Florida, according to a proclamation iſſued by his excellency governor Grant, dated, October 1, 1764. I have annexed both the conditions of the grant, and the terms of the proclamation.

A PROCLAMATION.

EAST-FLORIDA.

'By his excellency James Grant, Eſq; captain-general, governor and commander in chief, in and over the ſaid province, and vice-admiral of the ſame.

'WHEREAS the king, by his royal inſtructions, has commanded me to iſſue a proclamation, to make known the terms and conditions, on which all perſons may obtain grants of lands in the ſaid province; I do, in obedience to his majeſty's inſtructions, iſſue this my proclamation, and make known to all perſons, that they may, on application to me in council, at St. Auguſtine, obtain grants

of

of lands, in the ſaid province of Eaſt-Florida, in the following quantities, and on the following terms and conditions.

That 100 acres of land will be granted to every perſon, being maſter or miſtreſs of a family, for him or herſelf; and 50 acres for every white or black man, woman, or child, of which ſuch perſon's family ſhall conſiſt, at the actual time of making the grant: and in caſe any perſon applying as aforeſaid, ſhall be deſirous to take up a larger quantity of land than the family-right entitles ſuch perſons to, upon ſhewing a probability of cultivation, an additional number of acres, not exceeding 1000, may be obtained, upon paying, to the receiver of the quit-rents, the ſum of five ſhillings ſterling, for every 50 acres of ſuch additional grant, on the day of the date of the ſaid grant.

That the quit-rents of the land granted in this province, to be one halfpenny per acre, payable to his majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors, yearly, on the feaſt of St. Michael, which ſhall happen two years after the date of the grant.

That in all grants of land to be made, regard will be had to the profitable and unprofitable acres; ſo that each grantee may have a proportionable number of one ſort and the other; as likewiſe, that the breadth of each tract of land be one-third of the length of ſuch tract; and that the length of each tract do not extend along the banks of any river, but in the main land; and thereby the ſaid grantees may have each a convenient ſhare of what accommodation the ſaid river may afford, either for navigation, or otherwiſe.

That all perſons, on fulfilling the terms of the firſt grant, may have a further grant of the like quantity of lands, on the ſame terms and conditions aforeſaid.

That for every 50 acres of plantable land, each grantee ſhall be obliged, within three years after the date of the grant, to clear and work three acres, at leaſt, on that part of the tract which they ſhall think moſt convenient or advantageous; or elſe, to drain or clear three acres of ſwampy, ſunken ground; or drain three acres of marſh, if any ſuch within his or her grant.

That

That for every 50 acres of land, accounted barren, every grantee ſhall be obliged to put on his or her land, within three years after the date of the grant, three neat cattle; which number every perſon ſhall be obliged to continue on their lands, till three acres for every fifty be fully cleared and improved.

That if any perſon ſhall take up a tract of land, wherein there ſhall be no part fit for preſent cultivation, without manuring and improving the ſame, every ſuch grantee ſhall be obliged, within three years from the date of the grant, to erect on ſome part of the land, one good dwelling-houſe, at leaſt 20 feet in length, and 16 in breadth; and alſo to put on the land, the number of three neat cattle for every 50 acres.

That if any perſon, who ſhall take up any ſtony or rocky grounds, not fit for culture or paſture, ſhall, within three years after the paſſing the grant, begin to employ thereon, and continue to work for three years then next enſuing, in digging any ſtone-quarry, or other mine, one good

hand,

hand, for every 100 acres, it ſhall be accounted a ſufficient cultivation.

That every three acres which ſhall be cleared and worked as aforeſaid, and every three acres which ſhall be drained as aforeſaid, ſhall be accounted a ſufficient ſeating, planting, cultivation and improvement, to keep for ever from forfeiture 50 acres of land in any part contained within the ſame grant; and the grantee ſhall be at liberty to withdraw the ſtock, or forbear working in any quarry or mine, in proportion to ſuch cultivation and improvement as ſhall be made on the plantable lands, or upon the ſwampy or ſunken grounds, or marſhes, which ſhall be included in the ſame grant.

That when any perſon who ſhall hereafter take up and patent any land, ſhall have ſeated, planted, or cultivated and improved the ſaid land, or any part of it, according to the directions and conditions abovementioned, ſuch patentee may make proof of ſuch ſeating, planting, and cultivation or improvements, in any court of record in the ſaid province, or in the court of the country, diſtrict, or precinct, where

ſuch lands ſhall be, and have ſuch proofs certified to the regiſter and office, and there entered with the record of the ſaid patent; a copy of which ſhall be admitted on any trial, to prove the ſeating and planting ſuch lands.'

At the court of St. James's.

'WHereas the lords commiſſioners for trade and plantations have repreſented to his majeſty, at this board, that application has been made to them, by , praying for a grant of lands in his majeſty's province of Eaſt-Florida, in order to make a ſettlement thereupon, his majeſty, this day, took the ſame into conſideration; and having received the opinion of the lords commiſſioners for trade and plantations, and alſo of a committee of the lords of his majeſty's moſt honourable privy-council thereupon, is hereby pleaſed, with the advice of his privy-council, to order, that the governor and commander in chief of his majeſty's province of Eaſt-Florida, for the time being, do cauſe acres of land to be ſurveyed, in one contiguous tract, in ſuch part of the ſaid province as

the

the ſaid , or his attorney, ſhall chooſe, not already granted, or ſurveyed to others; and upon return of ſuch ſurvey, conformable to his majeſty's directions in general inſtructions, to paſs a grant for the ſame to the ſaid , under the ſeal of the ſaid province, upon the following terms, conditions and reſervations, viz.

That the grantee do ſettle the lands with proteſtant white inhabitants, within ten years from the date of the grant, in the proportion of one perſon for every 100 acres.

That if one third of the land is not ſettled with white proteſtant inhabitants in the abovementioned proportion, within three years from the date of the grant, the whole to be forfeited to his majeſty, his heirs or ſucceſſors.

That ſuch part of the whole tract as is not ſettled with white proteſtant inhabitants at the expiration of ten years from the date of the grant, to revert to his majeſty, his heirs or ſucceſſors.

That an annual quit-rent of one half-penny, ſterling, per acre, be reſerved to his majeſty, his heirs or ſucceſſors, payable

able on the feaſt of St. Michael, in every year, to commence, and become payable, upon one half of the ſaid land, on the ſaid feaſt of St. Michael, which ſhall firſt happen after the expiration of five years, from the date of the grant; and to be payable on every enſuing feaſt of St. Michael, or within fourteen days after; and the whole quantity to be ſubject in like manner to the like quit-rent, at the expiration of ten years.

That there be a reſervation in the ſaid grant to his majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors, of all thoſe parts of the land, which the ſurveyor ſhall, upon the return of the ſurvey, report to be proper for erecting fortifications, public wharfs, naval yards, or for other military purpoſes.

That there be a reſervation to his majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors, of all mines of gold, ſilver, copper, lead, and coals.

That any part of the land which ſhall appear, by the ſurveyor's report, to be well adapted to the growth of hemp or flax, it ſhall be a condition of the grant, that the grantee ſhall ſow, and continue annually

to cultivate a due proportion of the land, not less than one acre in every 1000, with that beneficial article of produce. And the governor or commander in chief of his majesty's province of East-Florida, for the time being, and all others whom it may concern, are required to carry his majesty's commands, hereby signified, into execution.

BRITISH MUSEUM 12 JU 98

FINIS.

A

JOURNAL,

KEPT BY

JOHN BARTRAM *of* Philadelphia,

BOTANIST to His MAJESTY

FOR

THE FLORIDAS;

UPON

A Journey from ST. AUGUSTINE up the River ST. JOHN'S.

With EXPLANATORY NOTES.

THE INTRODUCTION.

AS my view in publiſhing the account of Eaſt-Florida was to make the nation acquainted with the importance of that colony, and its natural advantages beyond the reſt of the continent of North-America, I feel a particular ſatisfaction in finding that my endeavours have not been unſucceſsful, and that the prejudices of the public againſt Florida, which ſeemed ſix months ago to be inſuperable, are ſo much abated, that I no longer wiſh for a more impartial enquiry than is at preſent made by the public, after the value and real conſequence of the different parts of that country.

In order to gratify the curioſity of the ſpeculative, and to give all poſſible ſatisfaction to the enquiries of thoſe who are deſirous to judge of the nature of the ſoil and climate of Eaſt-Florida, and to compare the advantages and diſadvantages of ſettling there, I publiſh the following Journal; from which, ſuch men as are accuſtomed to judge of countries and ſoil, to conſider the principles of vegetation, and to obſerve the ſimilarity of produce in ſimilar climates, will conclude a great deal, and men of no knowledge or experience in theſe matters will infer very little.

Mr. John Bartram, a native of Penſylvania, the Author of this Journal, is well known, and well reſpected in the learned world, as an able Naturaliſt; his knowledge in Botany has recommended him to the eſteem and patronage of the Great, and has procured him the honour of being Botaniſt to his Majeſty for both the Floridas. The uſefulneſs of his Journal, in

making

making known to the world the nature of the country to which it relates, is the beſt proof of the uſefulneſs of his appointment.

The frequent diſcovery of new plants and herbs, in countries long ſettled, ſhews how neceſſary it is that a new country ſhould be ſeen, and obſerved by learned eyes, in order that an age may not paſs before any tolerable judgment is formed of what it naturally produces, and what it is capable of producing.

Nobody is uninformed, that Carolina was ſettled near half a century before a grain of rice was ſown in it, tho' it is now the ſtaple commodity of the colony; it might have wanted that baſis of its preſent importance to this hour, had not an accidental remnant of rice on board a ſhip, that had victuals with it, been preſented to a planter, who happened to ſow a little of it for an experiment. How long was England, this active, enterprizing, philoſophical nation, uninformed

formed of the uſes of clover, turneps, potatoes, &c. without which its preſent inhabitants would be at a loſs for ſubſiſtance? I hope, that ſuch inſtances as theſe in times paſt, will prevent the like in time to come; and that intelligent men, whoſe knowledge is extended over the whole globe, will endeavour to multiply the articles of commerce and the means of ſubſiſtance in his Majeſty's colonies, by transferring the uſeful trees, plants, and grains, from countries where they are cultivated, to thoſe parts of America, where they are not, but may be cultivated equally well. I hope before long, to ſee Wiſdom directing, and Wealth aſſiſting the hand of induſtry in Eaſt-Florida. Nature has been liberal in the diſtribution of her favours upon that country; and I flatter myſelf, we ſhall ſoon be thoroughly ſenſible of the benefit of them.

The attention that has been paid to this colony, ſince the preceding account

account was publiſhed, ſufficiently proves, that neither the Gentlemen, nor the Nobility of England, are deficient in enterprize, where an object that merits attention is ſet before them.

When the account of Eaſt-Florida was firſt publiſhed, no more than ſeven petitions for grants of lands had been preſented to the Board of Trade in the ſpace of two years; and in the ſix months that have paſt ſince the publication of it, the petitions preſented, amounted to no leſs than one hundred and twenty.

A country unknown muſt, if a paradiſe itſelf, remain a deſart. It is the happineſs of the preſent age, that an active ſpirit is ſeen every where; and that all means of acquiring wealth and bettering the private condition of life are ſought after, and examined to the bottom, ſo that nothing, that really deſerves attention, remains long unknown, after the means of information are to be come at.

It requires an enlarged and unprejudiced mind to form a competent judgment of the nature and value of any country without ſeeing it. The following Journal will help to manifeſt the natural advantages of this country, and the experience of a very few years, will make us ſufficiently ſenſible of the value of them.

WILLIAM STORK, M.D.

A

JOURNAL, &c.

DECEMBER the 19th, 1765, ſet out from St. Auguſtine early in the morning, which was froſty, the ground being covered with a white hoar froſt. We travelled to Greenwood's houſe, where we lodged, the roads were very wet, by reaſon of much rain that lately fell; here I obſerved very large oaks, magnolias, liquid amber [a], near 100 foot high, and guilandina [b] 30; theſe grew on

B a high

[a] Liquidamber, Styraciflua. Lin. Spec. 1418. American gum-ſtorax-tree, with a maple-leaf, called alſo ſweet-gum.—Monardes, in his hiſtory of Mexico, calls this tree by the name of liquidamber, where he ſays it grows to a vaſt height; and that upon wounding its thick ſpongy bark, the balſam flows out, of the ſame ſcent with ſtorax. See Caſp. 4. Bauh. Pin. p. 502. This tree grows not only in Mexico, but in the greateſt part of North-America, from the Floridas to New-York; it yields its valuable balſam in proportion to the heat of the climate it grows in. Some excellent ſpecimens of it have been collected in Georgia lately.

[b] Guilandina dioica, Linn. Spec. 546. Bonduc or Nickar-Nut.—We have two kinds of this genus in the Weſt-India Iſlands, that are climbing plants; one of them is thorny, and bears

a high bluff 8 or 10 foot above the ſurface of the river, which riſes here 18 inches at high water, and in dry ſeaſons is ſometimes brackiſh, but in wet is drinkable to the Cow-ford, which is 12 miles below this, and about 24 from its mouth.

20th. Set out for Robert Davis's, whoſe ſon the Governor had ordered to take us up to ſearch for the head of the river St. John's; and having neceſſaries provided, I, my ſon William, Mr. Yates, and Mr. Davis, embarked in a battoe; Mr. Davis was not only to conduct us, but alſo to hunt veniſon for us, being a good hunter, and his Negro was to row and cook for us all, the Governor bearing our expences.

21ſt. Thermometer 74 P. M. The wind blew from the ſouth right againſt us, ſo ſtrong that we could not advance; ſo ſtaid at Mr. Davis's, who walked with us about his land, on which grew very large evergreen and water oaks, magnolia, liquid

bears pods with round grey ſeeds like marbles; the other has no thorns, and bears yellow ſeeds of the ſame ſize with the former, and are likewiſe uſed by children to play with. The one mentioned here, may be the ſame that Monſ. du Hamel of Paris ſays grows wild in Canada, and is male and female in different plants. This tree is very hardy in reſpect to cold, and eſteemed one of the rareſt and moſt elegant hardy trees in the Engliſh gardens, growing erect with large double pinnated leaves.

quid amber, red bay [c] 2 foot in diameter and 100 high, and ſome curious ſhrubs and plants we never obſerved before, with orange-trees amongſt them, large zanthoxylum [d], and purple-berried bay [e].

22d. Thermometer 70, wind S. W. Cleared up, and we ſet out from Mr. Davis's; but the wind turning ſouth again and blowing hard againſt us, we rowed but a few miles, then landed and walked on ſhore, found a pretty evergreen, which produces nuts or ſtones as big as acorns, and good to eat, and perhaps may be improved by culture to be near as good as almonds; it bears plentifully, grows 8 or 10 foot high, the people call them wild

 limes,

[c] Laurus Borbonia. Linn. Spec. 529. Red-Bay.—This tree makes excellent timber for the cabinet-makers, and is very little inferior to mohogany; ſome trees of this kind are ſo cloſe-grained, that they are not to be diſtinguiſhed from the beſt mohogany. They grow much larger near the ſea-coaſt than in the inner parts, and will ſoon become a beneficial article of trade.

[d] Zanthoxylon, Clava Herculis, Linn. Spec. 1455, Tooth-ach-tree.—Dr. Linnæus obſerves, that this is the ſame ſpecies that grows in Japon, and is called there Seo and Sansjo, or Japon-pepper, where they uſe it to ſeaſon their food, as we do pepper and ginger. Vid. Kæmpfer's Amœnitates, p. 892. Beſides this, the wood will afford a yellow dye.

[e] The Purple-berried Bay, is called by Cateſby a Liguſtrum or Evergreen Privet; but Dr. Solander, who has diſſected many ſpecimens of it, both with bloſſoms and fruit on them, ſays it is a ſpecies of olive: it is a beautiful evergreen-tree, with oppoſite lanceolated leaves, as long as thoſe of the Red-bay.

limes, for this ſhrub much reſembles that tree; here grew chinquapins, the middling ground being generally 300 yards broad to the higher land, ſome little ſwamps bordering the ſmall rivulets; we encamped, ſaw a large alligator: The ſhores of the river are generally very ſhoal for above 100 miles, at 50 yards diſtance more or leſs from the banks, the lowiih or middle ground between the ſwamp and pine land is generally ſand mixed with black mould, formed from the rotting of the fallen leaves from the thick bruſh and tall trees, which generally grow plentifully in this kind of ground; the palmettos likewiſe grow pretty plentifully between theſe middle grounds and pine lands.

23d. Cold morning, thermometer 52, wind N. W. arrived and lodged at Picolata.

24th. Cold morning, thermometer 50, wind N. W. Blowed pretty freſh, but ceaſed towards night; landed, and Mr. Davis ſhot a deer and his Negro a turkey. I and my ſon walked in the woods to obſerve the ſoil and plants, with a man that went to fell ſome trees for honey; he felled one that contained only ſome yellow

waſps,

waſps, that had taken up their winter-quarters in a pine-tree; we then walked to another hollow tree, wherein was a ſwarm of bees and ſome honey; but both the white people and Indians often meet with ſuch good ſucceſs, as to find great quantities of honey and wax, even ten gallons, more or leſs, out of one tree; the Indians eat much of it with their veniſon and four oranges, of which they cut off one end, then pour the honey into the pulp, and ſcoup both out as a reliſhing morſel. We then ſoon croſſed the river to a point where we lodged, and ſaw many rocks of congealed ſnail and muſcle-ſhells; here was a patch of good ſwamp, but the pine-lands approached near the river, and generally a perch or more of palmetto-ground, gently riſing between the ſwamp and pine-land.

25th. Cool hazy morning, thermometer 46 in the open air, (in which all my thermometrical obſervations up the river are taken). After ſeveral miles by choice ſwamps near the river, we landed at a point of high ground, which has been an ancient plantation of Indians or Spaniards; many live oak-trees grew upon it near two

foot

foot diameter, and plenty of oranges; the ſoil was ſandy but pretty good; we walked back from the river, the ground riſing gradually from the ſwamp on the right-hand, where grows ſmall evergreen-oaks, hiccory, chinquapins, and great magnolia, and in the ſwamp grows the ſwamp or northern kind 18 inches diameter, and 60 foot high, liquid-amber and red-maple 3 foot diameter, elm, aſh, and bays; the plants were moſt ſorts of the northern ferns, ſaururus [f], iris, pancratium, large long flowering convolvolus running 20 foot high, chenopodium as high, and 4 inches diameter, pontederia and dracontium. Cloudy cool day, arrived at ſquire Roll's, a bluff point 17 foot high, more or leſs, of which 5 foot is compoſed of ſnail and muſcle-ſhells, mixed with black mould or rotten vegetables, intermixed with ſand, 20 paces diſtant from the ſhore, and diminiſhing all the way to the yellow ſoil, on which grows large evergreen-oaks, ever-

[f] Saururus cernuus, Linn. Spec. 489. Lizard's-tail, a creeping plant with heart-ſhaped leaves.—Pancratium carolinianum, Linn. Spec. 418. Carolina ſea-daffodil —Iris, in Engliſh, flower-de-luce.—Convolvulus, in Engliſh, bind-weed.—Chenopodium, in Engliſh, gooſe-foot.—Pontederia, a water plant, with arrow-headed leaves, and a ſpike of blue flowers.

evergreen-ſhrub-oaks, where the pine-lands begin at 50 yards from the river: This ſhell-bluff is 300 yards more or leſs along the river's bank, gradually deſcending each way to a little ſwamp, round the head of which the pine-lands continue down the river a good way, and a little way up it; the bluff ſeems all ſoil and ſhells, but back near the Savanna's is found ſome clay; there is a ſmall Spaniſh intrenchment on the bluff about 20 paces ſquare, and pieces of Indian pots; the river is very deep near the bluff, tho' there is a great barr oppoſite to the town, and a very rich extenſive ſwamp.

26th. Thermometer temperate, fine day, wind ſouth. Excellent ſwamps on both ſides of the river, ſome 2 or 3 miles deep; landed on Dunn's Iſland on a large ſnail ſhell ridge, the adjacent ſwamp excellent, and the middle ground rich for corn, turkeys, and alligators plenty, ſaw a middling ſized Indian tumulus, 20 yards diameter and 6 or 8 foot high; arrived ſoon at Spalding's Lower-ſtore, on the weſt-ſide of the river, 37 miles from Picolata and 50 from Latchaway, an inland Indian town, near

half

the way pine-land and palmetto-ground: It is generally affirmed, that the ſoil at Latchaway is excellent and produceth good corn and rich paſture; we encamped on a bluff in the pine-land, over-againſt a rich little iſland.

27th. Thermometer 50, fine morning. Set out from the Store, and about 5 miles above, landed on a high bluff, on the eaſt-ſide of the river at Johnſon's Spring, a run of clear and ſweet water, then travelled on foot along thick woody but loamy ground, looking rich on the ſurface by reaſon of the continual falling leaves, and by the conſtant evergreen ſhade rotting to ſoil, as the ſun never ſhines on the ground ſtrong enough to exhale their virtue before their diſſolution, as under deciduous trees: We croſſed ſeveral ſmall rivulets of clear ſweet water, and as many narrow moiſt ſwamps; 'tis diverting to obſerve the monſtrous grape-vines, 8 inches in diameter, running up the oaks 6 foot in diameter, ſwamp magnolia 70 foot high ſtraight, and a foot diameter, the great magnolia very large, liquid-amber, white ſwamp and live oaks, chinqua-

And

quapines [g] and cluſter-cherry [h] all of an uncommon ſize, mixed with orange-trees, either full of fruit or ſcattered on the ground, where the ſun can hardly ſhine for the green leaves at Chriſtmas, and all in a maſs of white or yellow ſoil 16 foot more or leſs above the ſurface of the river. We came down a ſteep hill 20 foot high and about 4 or 500 yards from the river, under the foot of which iſſued out a large fountain (big enough to turn a mill) of warm clear water of a very offenſive taſte, and ſmelt like bilge-water, or the waſhings of a gun-barrel; the ſediment that adhered to the trees fallen therein, looked of a pale white or bluiſh caſt, like milk and water mixed: We then croſſed the ſwamp, and aſcended and deſcended two hills and narrow ſwamps more; at the foot of the

[g] Tagus Pumila, Linn. Spec. 1416, Dwarf cheſnut called Chinquapin.—This tree grows about 10 or 12 feet high, and produces a great quantity of ſmall round nuts, exceeding the common cheſnuts greatly in the ſweetneſs of their taſte.

[h] Prunus Virginiana, Linn. Spec. 677, & 3d. Padus of Miller's Dictionary, American Bird-cherry or Cluſter-cherry.—The wood of this tree is much eſteemed by the Cabinet-makers; it preſerves its leaves the longeſt of any of the deciduous trees. There is an evergreen ſort of this Bird or Cluſter-cherry, which grows about 30 feet high in S. Carolina, and from the beauty of its evergreen ſhining leaves is called the Mock-orange; the fruit of this ſteeped in brandy makes a fine flavoured ratafie. This is the 6th Padus of Miller's Dictionary.

laſt iſſued out another warm ſpring of clear water like the other, but not ſo large. Then travelling alternately over hills and ſwamps, in all about 3 or 4 miles, came to a great cove, near a quarter of a mile from the river, out of the head of which aroſe a prodigious large fountain of clear water of loathſome taſte, like the other two beforementioned; it directly formed a large deep creek 40 or 50 yards wide to the river, and deep enough for a large boat to ſwim loaded to its head, which boils up near 8 foot deep from under the ſhelly rocks; 'tis full of large fiſh, as cats, garr, mullets, and ſeveral other kinds, and plenty of alligators:—Lodged at Johnſon's Bluff, where for a mile the ſandy pine-barren comes cloſe or near the ſhore, and here grew plenty of what is called wild-limes, which ſhows that they will grow in poor ſoil tho' chiefly in rich.

28th. Set out from Johnſon's Bluff; foggy morning, wind N. E. thermometer 56. Came in a few miles to Mount Hope, at the entrance of a little lake, the eaſt and ſouth-ſide of which is pine-land reaching to Johnſon's Bluff, except a point of good ſwamp: Mount Hope is 50 yards long

and

and 30 wide, near 20 foot high, compoſed all of freſh water ſnail and muſcle-ſhells of various dimenſions, the ſmall ones drove into the large, and the broken and powdered ones into the interſtices of both; theſe are very fertile ſoils as far as the ſhells reach, and if not the only, yet the common planting grounds of the former Florida Indians, as is proved by the numerous pieces of broken Indian pots ſcattered all over all theſe ſhelly bluffs, and the veſtigies of the corn hills ſtill remaining, altho' many pretty large live oaks, red-cedars and palms now grow upon them; the weſt wind hath a long and full ſtroke againſt this mount, which perhaps raiſed it to that height: Saw many alligators, and killed one; 'tis certain that both jaws open by a joint nearly alike to both: Here and near the river's bank grows the ſhort-podded gleditſia[i], elm and black-aſh, with moſt of the South-Carolina plants: Land-

[i] Gleditſia, Linn. Spec. 1509, Three-thorn'd Acacia or Honey-locuſt. This tree with its elegant leaves grows up to a large ſize, and is ſaid to make excellent timber. There is a very large one of this kind in the Biſhop of London's garden at Fulham.—There is another ſpecies of this, with ſmall thin oval pods, incloſing only one ſeed, called by Mr. Cateſby Water-acacia, on account of its growing in moiſt places, which alſo comes to very good timber, and is mentioned here by Mr. Bartram.

ed at Mount-Royal, where there are 50 acres of cleared old fields, fine oranges in the woods, and a fine ſpring iſſuing out above a mile from the river, making a ſtream big enough to turn a mill, on the back of which the pine-lands begin; the bank and for 50 yards back is compoſed of ſandy ſoil mixed with ſnail-ſhells, which for a foot or more thick is indurated to a ſoft rock, from which a fine ſouth proſpect opens to the great lake (the river here is above half a mile wide) near the entrance of which is a large iſland; we encamped on the eaſt-ſide of the river oppoſite to the iſland, from whence we heard a bear roaring in the night; we lay on a low bluff of ſnail-ſhells, amongſt plenty of bitter-ſweet oranges next in goodneſs to the China, and here the woods are full of them; we walked back over a dry kind of rich ſwamp full of ſhells mixed with black tenacious mud, under which is a white tenacious clay or marl, and in about 400 yards came to riſing ground, pretty rich, and good corn land, then to palmetto yet blackiſh ſoil, then to whitiſh, in which grew pines, then ſavannahs and ponds, which are interſperſed generally in the

pine-

pine-lands in moſt part of the ſouthern provinces, together with the cypreſs[k] and bay-ſwamps, and have for the moſt part good feeding round their borders, this rich ſwamp terminated at the bend of the river where the pine-land reaches cloſe to its banks; ſo that the banks of this fine river are a continual alternate change of pine-land, bluffs, cypreſs, ſwamps, marſhes, and rich aſh, and maple-ſwamps, the hammocks of live-oaks and palmettos[l] are generally ſurrounded either with ſwamp or marſh; ſometimes the deep rich ſwamps are 2 or 3 miles deep from the river to the pines, and reacheth along the river from one mile to 4, 5 or 6 at uncertain depths: Theſe ſwamps are ſuppoſed to be the beſt rice-grounds, as neither the dry weather

nor

[k] Cupreſſus-diſticha, Linn. Spec. 1422. Deciduous Swamp Cypreſs or Bald-cypreſs.—This moſt uſeful tree grows in great plenty in many of the ſwamps, and grows to ſuch an amazing ſize, that boats or pettiaugres, capable of carrying a conſiderable burthen, are formed from the trunks of ſingle trees; from the cones of this tree iſſues a moſt fragrant balſam like balſam Tolu.

[l] Chamærops humilis, Linn. Spec. 1657,—Dwarf-palmetta. This Dwarf-palm grows on the ſea-coaſt, from the capes of Florida up to Charles-town in South-carolina, and bears bunches of berries ſomething larger than black currants: Theſe contain round horny ſeeds, which are of the ſize of ſmall peas, and are covered with a thin pulp, which the Indians uſe as food. The leaves furniſh them with thatch, and the ſoil where they grow is judged to be a middling kind between the ſand and the ſwamps.

nor wet can hurt them ſo much as where there is no water in dry times, and in wet there is too much, for this is rarely overflowed but in ſpring-tides, and theſe will always keep them wet enough in the dryeſt ſeaſons, eſpecially below the great lake.

29th. Foggy morning; thermometer 52. Landed oppoſite to the mouth of the lake, which hath a full ſtroke with a ſouth-wind; the rock is all compoſed of ſnail and muſcle-ſhells, hard enough to build with about 4 foot thick, and will ſplit horizontally; ſome parts look like lime-ſtone, but whether for want of ſalt that abounds in ſea-ſhells they will make ſuch ſtrong lime I cannot ſay. Thermometer 72. P. M. Fiſh jumping continually; we encamped on a rocky point near a fine ſwamp of 25 acres, then a marſh of 20, near the end of an iſland on which ſome pines grew, then a great rich ſwamp round the cove; a very rainy night welcomed us.

30th. Rainy warm morning; thermometer 64. Set out and came to a point of piney land, but between it and the common faſt ground is a great ſwamp, which con-

continues a great part of the cove to the mouth of the river, except a few piney points: We landed at the neck, which is about 8 foot above the water, the upper ſtrata was 2 or 3 foot of white ſand covered with a thin coat of black-coloured with diſſolved rotton leaves of the kalmia [m], vaccinium [n], dwarf-myrtle [o], andromeda [p], palmetto, pines, and other evergreens, which tho' always green, yet are moſtly ſhedding their former year's leaves, but next the water was a hard blackiſh ſand like a ſoft ſtone, which tho' it will crumble betwixt the thumb and fingers, yet is almoſt impenetrable to water. Thermometer 72. P. M. Arrived at the head of the great lake 20 or more miles long, one and a half fathom deep, and 12 miles wide, as it is commonly reckoned: We landed on a fine ſhelly bluff 10 foot above the water; here grows

[m] Kalmia, an elegant evergreen flowering ſhrub, bearing umbels of beautiful red flowers, now cultivated in the curious Engliſh gardens.

[n] Vaccinium. Cranberries, four times larger than the Engliſh Cranberries.

[o] Myrica cerifera, Linn. Spec. 1453. Dwarf-myrtle.—This is a dwarf kind of the common Candleberry-myrtle, of ſuch importance to the people of North America, by ſupplying them with excellent wax, with only the trouble of collecting and boiling the berries, and when the water is cold taking off the wax.

[p] Andromeda. There are many ſhrubs of this genus now cultivated for their beauty in the Engliſh gardens.

grows red-cedar, live-oak, great palmetto, and good oranges, behind which is a high rich clear marſh producing graſs as high as one's head, reaching to the pine-lands, and the cove of the great lake, which is ſuppoſed to be the extent of the real tides flowing; but a ſtrong north-wind will force the water of the lake many miles up the river, and the floods above coming down after great rains ſwell the river ſo as to overflow its banks and cover a vaſt body of reedy marſh.

31ſt. Cool morning; thermometer 56. wind N. Set out, and in half a mile came to a middling creek 2 fathom deep, and from 50 to 100 yards wide, a rich iſland on the ſouth-ſide hard enough for a horſe to walk upon, and pretty full of wood, as maple and aſh; on the north-ſide is a great extent of clear marſh, producing tall graſs towards the head of the creek-branches on both ſides in the marſh, many of which branches head in a great cypreſs ſwamp, in the pine-barrens and in the adjacent marſhes: We rowed or ſet the battoe as far as ſhe could ſwim, then came back to the river, which is lined on both ſides with very rich hard ſwamps, 2 or 3 miles long,

and near one broad more or leſs, producing good graſs: It is remarkable that at the entrance of the river into the great lake there floats prodigious quantities of the piſtia [q], which grows in great plenty moſt of the way from hence to the head of the river, and is continually driving down with the current, and great quantities lodged all along the extenſive ſhores of this river and its iſlands, where it is entangled with a large ſpecies of water-numularia, perſicaria, water-graſs, and ſaxifrage, all which ſend down very long fibrous roots deep into the water by which they are nouriſhed, growing all matted together in ſuch a manner as to ſtop up the mouth of a large creek, ſo that a boat can hardly be puſhed through them, tho' in 4 foot water; theſe by ſtorms are broke from their natural beds and float down the river in great patches, the roots ſtriking deep, often touch the muddy bottom, and there anchor and faſten, and are ready to catch and entangle thoſe that drive down

[q] Piſtia Stratiotes, Linn. Spec. 1365. A Water-plant like the Water-ſoldier or Water-houſe-leek.—Sir Hans Sloane has given us a figure of this plant in his hiſtory of Jamaica, Vol. I. Tab. 2. Fig. 2. and ſays it is uſed for the ſame diſeaſes as Plantain, either outwardly or inwardly, in juice, or the powder to a drachm.

upon them, and all together gather mud, by the daily accumulation of which they are formed into iſlands which are very numerous in this river, and are much enlarged by theſe plants fixing on their ſhores. We now came to plenty of the tree palmetto, which the inhabitants call cabbage-tree [r], and is much eaten both raw and boiled.

JANUARY the 1ſt, 1766. Hazy morning; thermometer 52. Set out from Spalding's Upper-ſtore, about 50 miles above the Lower; the river here is 200 yards broad, and 9 foot deep in the channel; in long continued rains it hath been known to riſe here 3 foot perpendicular; no tides from the ſea reach here. Thermometer 72. P. M. Landed at a high ſhelly bluff, where thouſands of orange-trees ſurrounded us, with red-cedars and live-oaks, beyond which is a rich ſwamp and marſh, then

[r] Palma altiſſima, fructu pruniformi, &c. Sloane Hiſt. Jamaica. Vol. II. p. 115, 116, &c. The Palm called the Cabbage-tree.—It appears from this Palm growing here, (which is a native of the Weſt Indies,) that many others of the Weſt-India productions may alſo be cultivated, from the pith, with which this tree abounds, very good Sago has been made, and the long trunks of this Palm ſerve very well for pipes to convey water under-ground, and when ſplit in two make excellent long troughs or conduits to convey water from place to place above-ground.

then pine-land; landed again at a point on the north-ſide of a great cove on the eaſt lake where we lodged.

2d. White froſt on the boat; thermometer 35. Set out to view the cove, which was ſurrounded with extenſive marſhes on the ſouth-ſide, on the eaſt and weſt with marſhes, ſeveral hundred yards wide, then a narrow cypreſs-ſwamp joined to the common pine-land; we came again into the river 80 yards broad, which ran at firſt a ſouth courſe, then bended eaſt for ſeveral miles: We ſaw very extenſive marſhes on each ſide (with ſeveral ſhort cypreſs-trees and maple-hammocks interſperſed) until we came to a pond on the ſouth, ſoon after which we landed and climbed up a tree, from which we had a proſpect of the lake lying N. W. with an extenſive marſh between: We obſerved many ſhort willows, but the woody ſwamps are chiefly black and white aſh, with red maple next the river, and generally a cypreſs-ſwamp interpoſed between the pine-lands and ſwamps of aſh; we rowed ſeveral courſes in ſight of extenſive marſhes and ſwamps, 2, 3 or 4 miles wide more or leſs; the river was pretty high,

2 foot above the drieſt times, by reaſon of the great rains, yet it barely covered the ſwamps even in pretty low places, but indeed there is little difference in their height for ſcores of miles, unleſs near the palmetto and pine-lands: We landed on a ſhelly bluff of 2 or 3 acres of four orange-trees full of fruit; then rowing along the cypreſs-trees, which grew here next the river, a deep ſwamp interpoſed between the cypreſs and pine-lands; we came to Clement's Bluff, where we encamped on a ſhelly bank 12 foot perpendicular; the lower part next the water was an indurated ſhelly rock, the bluff is 300 yards long and one broad, more or leſs, beyond which it gradually declines back to a fine ſavannah, then to the pine-lands, palmetto and ſhrubby oaks; this is on the weſt-ſide of the river, as is the orange-grove; thermometer 48. P. M.

3d. Clear cold morning; thermometer 26. wind N. W. The ground was froze an inch thick on the banks; this was the fatal night that deſtroyed the lime, citron, and banana trees in Auguſtine, many curious evergreens up the river, that were near 20 years old, and in a flouriſhing ſtate;

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the young green ſhoots of the maple, elm, and pavia, with many flowering plants and ſhrubs never before hurt: Set out from Clement's Bluff, rowed by much rich ſwamp and marſh; ſaw many elder-trees in flower (which grow in plenty cloſe to the river next the water-reeds) and many alligators, tho' ſo very cold that it had froze the great convolvolus and coreopſis, yet the great ſhrub after held out: The banks were in ſeveral places 2 or 3 foot high, ſhelly, and two rood broad; then fell back to a fine rich graſſy ſwamp, chiefly aſh, elm, and cypreſs, but much more open than down the river below the great lake, with more frequent patches of marſh and high graſs and ſmall maples, willows, and cephalanthus thinly ſcattered upon them; the higher banks with live and water-oaks. Landed about noon on the eaſt-ſide on a bluff, 6 or 8 foot high, and 150 yards broad, but ſoon falls back to a cypreſs-ſwamp, at the upper end of which oaks and palmettos join the river, and a little back the pines begin.

4th. Pleaſant morning; thermometer 50. Set out from Whitlow's Bluff; the river makes a great eaſy bend, and ſends

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out a branch, then the courſe is from eaſt to ſouth, then S. E. the eaſt banks being ſandy 8 or 10 foot perpendicular, full of live and ſwamp-oaks, great magnolia, bay and liquidambar, but none of them very large; then pine-land to the ſouth bend, then lower ground, but on the weſt-ſide very good ſwamp; it then takes a contrary bend to the ſouth, then eaſt, where there is a fine orange grove on each ſide of the river: at the corner of the ſouth bend, the mouth of a lake appears, one mile wide and 2 or 3 long, which we entered; the courſe is near ſouth and north, the eaſt-ſide is lined with a narrow cypreſs-ſwamp, and live-oaks alternately; the weſt-ſide with pines, but above the marſhes are very rich, full of water-reeds and elders on both ſides the river, which is about 30 yards broad, and near 3 fathom deep. We landed where a ſandy bluff joined the river; it produced live and water-oak, palms and bay; coaſting the eaſt-ſide, we ſoon came to a creek, up which we rowed a mile, in 4 and 6 foot water and 30 yards broad, of the colour of the ſea, ſmelled like bilge-water, taſting ſweetiſh and loathſome, warm and

very clear, but a whitiſh matter adhered to the fallen trees near the bottom; the ſpring-head is about 30 yards broad, and boils up from the bottom like a pot; plummed it, and found about five fathom water, multitudes of fiſh reſort to its head, as very large garr, cats, and ſeveral other ſorts; the alligators very numerous either on the ſhore or ſwimming on the ſurface of the water, and ſome on the bottom, ſo tame, or rather bold, as to allow us to row very near to them: What a ſurprizing fountain muſt it be, to furniſh ſuch a ſtream, and what a great ſpace of ground muſt be taken up in the pine-lands, ponds, ſavannahs, and ſwamps, to ſupport and maintain ſo conſtant a fountain, continually boiling right up from under the deep rocks, which undoubtedly continue under moſt part of the country at uncertain depths?

5th. Rainy morning; thermometer 54. Staid at Mount-joy; this mount is formed of ſnail and muſcle-ſhells, and is 8 or 10 foot perpendicular, about 150 yards long and 20 broad, on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the river, declining gradually at each end to an extenſive ſtiff moiſtiſh marſh, producing

a great

a great quantity of tall graſs, as thick as it can grow, of ſeveral 100 acres; a pine ridge appears at half a mile diſtance on the ſouth-ſide: The mount and its declining ſides and ends are full of live-oaks and large palm-trees; there are alſo ſome hammocks of live-oaks and myrtles interſperſed in the adjacent marſh: oppoſite to the mount on the other ſide of the river, is a large ſwamp or reedy marſh, and beyond it a cypreſs-ſwamp of great extent farther than the eye can reach.

6th. Clear morning; thermometer 38. Strong wind at N. W. Set out and ſoon ſaw a great body of very different ſwamp and marſh joining it, ſome dry, others middling moiſt, and ſome very wet, ſome reedy ſoil, ſome myrtle, oak, cypreſs, and laſtly pine; then we came a little farther to tall water-reeds on both ſides, and much elder grew next the river and cloſe to the reeds, which laſt grew very thick cloſe to the bank, and from 14 to 16 foot high; ſometimes a narrow ridge, about a rood wide and a foot or two high, would run cloſe to the river, on which grew oaks, hiccory, maple, and aſh, the ground back being ſcarcely above the common flow of

the river; but as we rowed higher up, the ſoil was in many places of an unknown depth, of tenacious rich mud, eſpecially on the Indian ſide, which is generally higher than ours, and ſo ſtiff that cattle may walk upon it very ſafe, and bears choice graſs, tho' full of tall trees, as hiccory, maple, water-oak, and aſh: We rowed by a very large iſland on the eaſt-ſide and another on the weſt, the beſt I have ſeen in Florida; the river, for theſe two days, has run very crooked. Landed on a high rich ſhelly bluff, ſome good flat ſoil, but full of palms, and a little back the pine-lands begin: The laſt froſt killed the young ſhoots of aſh, hiccory, eupatorium, peanines, ſun-flowers, and the tops of two lovely evergreen ſhrubs, one of which would have grown all winter, if the froſt had not killed it; the bark was burſt from the wood, but the lower part was not hurt, the other was full of flowers, green and ripe berries, yet the tender tops for half a foot were killed: 'Tis very common in this country for vegetables to produce at the ſame time flowers, green and ripe fruit; and if the tender ſhoots are by chance killed, they ſoon ſend out freſh

ones; here is a native gourd or ſquaſh, which runs 20 foot up the trees, cloſe to the river; the people eat them when young, but they are bitter when old, and about the ſize of a man's fiſt.

7th. Clear morning; thermometer 36. Set out from Cabbage-bluff, ſo called from the great number of palm or cabbage-trees growing there; after ſome miles rowing round ſeveral points of the compaſs, it being generally good reed-marſh and ſome cypreſs-ſwamps, we came to the middle lake 1, 2 or 3 miles broad and 8 long; its general courſe is S. E. at the N. E. end is high ground, producing oak, palm, myrtle, bay, and a fine new evergreen, ſomething like the purple-berried bay, but the leaves grow alternately, and the berries cloſe to the ſtem, like myrtle; here is a pretty ſtream of ſweet water, ſmall enough to run through the bung-hole of a barrel, and at about 200 yards diſtance from it runs out a large ſtream of water, ſo warm as to ſupport the thermometer at 71 in it, feels warm to a cooliſh hand, taſtes more loathſome than the others beforementioned of the ſame kind, and may be ſmelt at ſome roods diſtant; hereabout is drove on ſhore,

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the moſt delicate cryſtalline-ſand I ever ſaw, except what is got on an iſland near our capes, tho' this is ſtill finer: A few 100 yards from the laſt ſpring is another much like it in taſte, but much larger, and near 30 yards broad, having three heads within 30 yards; the water is very loathſome and warm, but not ſo hot as one's blood: This differs from the other in having moſt of its ſurface covered with duck-meat; its banks full of ſhelly ſtone of the ſnail-ſhell kind, and running level with the river; the laſt had ſome fall; they are not above 200 yards from the lake. Set out and arrived at a rocky bluff, at the entrance of the head of the river, which was two or more miles wide, but gradually narrowed; this bluff is compoſed of ſnail and muſcle-ſhells, indurated into hard rocks, which would break or ſplit for building or burning into lime; but a bluff we landed at in the forenoon was more remarkable; for as the bank was perpendicular, we had a better opportunity of ſearching deeper; we ſaw about 3 foot above the water a maſs of cluſtered ſea ſhells, as periwinkles, cockles, and clams, the very productions of the ſea, and to what depth they went

is unknown; but this I believe, that they reach all under this whole low country at uncertain depths, and ſupport the ſuperior ſoil, under which the prodigious ſulphureous and ſaline fountains run, which are continually fed by the ſlow ſettling of rain-water.

8th. Clear fine morning; thermometer 44. wind weſt by north. Rowed by much reedy ground, which is generally very wet, being often covered a foot more or leſs deep, after great rains; but the banks in many places are raiſed, a foot or more, by the traſh floating down the river, which being drove on ſhore by the wind, there rots and is converted into ſtiff ſoil, on which the alligators love to baſk in the ſun-ſhine; every 20, 50 or 100 yards diſtance they are to be found: We encamped on a pleaſant dry bank, but middling ſoil, in a grove of live-oaks; beyond which is a plain, and behind that a great inland pond or lake; below where we lodged ſeveral inlets appeared to the northward, and above the river forked, and we rowed up the N. E. branch.

9th. Clear fine morning; thermometer 44. We rowed along ſeveral long beaches gene-

generally eaſt and N. E. then came to a high bluff of ſand on the eaſt-ſide, under which was a ſtrata four foot thick, of a browniſh ſoft ſand ſtone, eaſily rubbed to ſand between the thumb and fingers; this was a point of pine-land, and on it grew great magnolia, ſweet-bay, live-oak, palms, tall andromeda, vaccinium, red-cedar*, and an odd zanthoxylum; here we found an Indian hunting cabin covered with palmetto-leaves; we then rowed by a large marſh on the eaſt ſide with a row of trees on the bank of hiccory, aſh, and live-oak; then pine-land on our ſide for a long reach, and high banks and trees on the Indian ſide, after rowing ſeveral long reaches, generally pooriſh land, either near the river or at a diſtance from it, we came againſt a creek bearing northward, up which we rowed about a mile, where we ſaw ſome good ſwamps, and much long thick graſs, ſome on pretty dry ground, but generally wet; this creek led us up to a great

* Juniperus Virginiana, Linn. Spec. 1471. Red-cedar, or Great Juniper.—'Tis neceſſary to diſtinguiſh this tree from the many that are called Cedars: It is of great uſe not only in the building of houſes, but in ſhip-building: This is the wood uſed in making black-lead-pencils; the berries put into ſpirits make excellent geneva, and from the tree diſtils a reſin equal to gum-ſandrach, very uſeful in making varniſh.

a great cypreſs-ſwamp, in which it divided inviſibly as the other branches did in ſeveral parts of the marſh; we came back again to the river, up which we rowed 'till we came to a high bluff, where we encamped, and found 2 or 3 curious ſhrubs; oppoſite to this bluff is a very extenſive marſh, part of which is reed, and ſome very good rich dry ſoil; here are ſome very large muſcle-ſhells, of which this bluff is compoſed and enriched; this has been a fine piece of planting-ground.

10th. Pleaſant morning; thermometer 50. The wolves howled, the firſt time I heard them in Florida; here we found a great neſt of a wood-rat, built of long pieces of dry ſticks, near 4 foot high and 5 in diameter, all laid confuſedly together; on ſtirring the ſticks to obſerve their ſtructure, a large rat ran out, and up a very high ſaplin with a young one hanging to its tail. Set out, and in half a mile came to a lake, and taking the north-eaſt-ſide, ſtretched eaſtward by a very extenſive marſh, pretty low next the lake, but farther back good marſh, beyond which is a large cypreſs-ſwamp; then the pine-lands begin; we rowed to the eaſt-ſide of

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the lake, near which is the mouth of a fine lagoon, a mile long and half as wide, bordered with a very large marſh extending to a large cypreſs-ſwamp; we then coaſted ſouthward along a ſandy beech, back of which is a dryiſh marſh, then came to a ridge of oaks about 20 roods wide more or leſs, behind which is a marſh reaching to the cypreſs-ſwamp, but more ſouth the pine-lands appear; at the ſouth-end of the oak-hammock runs eaſtward a large branch, which ſpreads into many branches in this large marſh, draining it and the adjacent cypreſs-ſwamps; this marſh is large and looks rich, and I believe reacheth from the lake to the cypreſs-ſwamp and pine-land: We then turned round a point, and landed at another ſandy beech and hammock, beyond which is a large plain or ſavannah, half a mile wide more or leſs to the pines, producing pretty good graſs, low ſhrubs, oaks, and myrtles, the ſoil black on the ſurface and moiſt, tho' ſtiff enough to ride upon; there is a ſmall pond within the beech at the ſouth-end, where ducks frequent; this upper lake may be 4 or 5 miles in diameter, and perhaps more in length, and one fathom deep more or leſs; but the river between this and the laſt is in

many

many places two and a half fathoms, and in moſt places near 150 wide; we lodged at a ſandy beech, and it rained towards morning, but ſoon cleared up.

11th. Clear morning; thermometer temperate. Set out and ſoon came into the river, which ſends out numerous branches, that terminate in the eaſt marſh, which is wonderfully interſected and divided with ponds and branches, and the river is alſo divided with numerous ſmall and great iſlands of low marſh; ſo that it is difficult to find the main river, but by the ſtrong current: We came at laſt to a fine lake or rather three, the loweſt of which is the biggeſt, being a mile diameter; on the eaſt-ſide the pine-lands appear about two miles diſtant moſt of the way more or leſs from the lake we lodged at; but on the weſt-ſide, we could hardly ſee them, ſuch a great body of marſh being between; after noon we came to where the river was more entire, and ſome of its banks 3 foot high and 7 or 8 foot broad to the weſt marſh, the river being 200 yards broad more or leſs, and one and a half fathom deep; here ſeveral more large branches or lagoons branched eaſtward,

and

and ſpread their numerous branches in the marſhes; we rowed ſeveral long beaches up the rivers, and at laſt to our great joy came to a bluff where we could ſet our feet on dry ground; this being a very rich hammock of 6 acres of light black ſhelly ſoil (thermometer 58. P. M.) producing red-cedar, celtis [t], a curious zanthoxylium, and ſeveral others we never obſerved before, a few large orange-trees, and ſome young ones.

12th. Fine clear morning; thermometer 44. Set out, and rowing S. E. ſoon came to a little lake which we headed, it ſeemed to be ſurrounded with marſh, ſome few pines appeared at a diſtance; we turned back, and within a mile came into the main river, which turned various courſes S. E. and north, but generally eaſt by north; it ſends out on each ſide lagoons and branches that drain thoſe extenſive marſhes. We came now to a large lake 5 or 6 miles long and near one wide, a long tongue of low marſh comes from the N. E. end, where a long hammock of oaks runs a

[t] Celtis, occidentalis, Linn. Spec. 1478. the Lote or Nettletree.—This grows to be a very large tree, and the wood of it is much eſteemed for being ſo tough and pliable; it is reckoned the beſt wood for the ſhafts of all kinds of carriages.

ſouth courſe; we then rowed out of the lake, and between ſeveral iſlands, and came again into the main river, which runs in general an eaſt and weſt courſe on a ſandy bottom, ſhoaling gradually until the weeds and reeds ſtopped our battoe in ſuch a manner, that it was impoſſible to puſh her any farther, tho' the water was 3 foot deep, and a ſmall current againſt us, which we ſuppoſe was the draining of the extenſive marſhes which opened towards the ſouth-eaſt, how far beyond our view we could not determine; the water-reeds grew here in the current as thick and cloſe together as on the marſh, that is, as cloſe as hemp; yet the current forceth its way thro', and alſo under the great patches of the piſtia, the water perſicaria, and other water-plants, which are all entangled together, covering many thouſands of acres on St. John's and its branches, which heads in numerous rich ſwamps and marſhes. We returned to the rich hammock where we lodged laſt night.

13th. Fine pleaſant morning; thermometer 54. Set out homeward from the rich hammock, the higheſt up the river we could land at. Thermometer 79. P. M.

about

about one o'clock we came to Round-lake, ſo we called it, it being one of the roundeſt I ever ſaw, almoſt ſurrounded with palmetto, pine, and ſcrub-oak; the lake is 6 miles more or leſs in diameter, and generally all over the lake about 9 or 10 foot deep.

14th. Clear morning; wind north. Set out from Coffee-bluff, thermometer 52; a very long reach on the weſt-ſide of the river, of piney, palmetto-ground, with ſcrub-oaks; about noon we entered the weſt lake ſteering S. W. a ridge of pine-land runs on the eaſt-ſide and a marſh a quarter of a mile more or leſs between it and the lake, which I think is 8 or 10 miles from north to ſouth, and 5 or 6 miles broad, the marſh is in many places a mile or two wide, and then comes to hammocks of oaks; ſaw a mullet jump three times in a minute or two, which they generally do before they reſt, ſo are called jumping-mullets; on the ſouth-ſide of this lake is a great low cypreſs-ſwamp; here to my great diſappointment my thermometer was broke accidentally in ſtriving to take a ſwarm of bees for their honey, which is practiſed both by the whites and

Indians, who take great quantities in the cypreſs-ſwamps and pine-lands. We landed on the weſt-ſide which was low and rich for 100 yards back, riſing gradually from the water to 4 or 5 foot perpendicular, then comes to a level, looking rich and black on the ſurface for an inch or two, then under it a fine ſand to a great depth; this level produceth red-bay, great magnolia, water and live-oaks, liquidamber, hiccory, and ſome oranges, but no large trees; the lower rich ground produceth gledistia, piſhamins, cephalanthus, aſh, cypreſs, and cornu femina: Our hunter killed a large he-bear ſuppoſed to weigh 400 pounds, was 7 foot long, cut 4 inches thick of fat on the ſide, its fore-paw 5 inches broad, his ſkin when ſtretched meaſured five foot and a half long, and 4 foot 10 inches in breadth, and yielded 15 or 16 gallons of clear oil; two of us had never eat an ounce of bears meat before, but we found it to our ſurprize to be very mild and ſweet, above all four-footed creatures, except veniſon; although it was an old he-bear, his fat, though I loathed the ſight of it at firſt, was incomparably milder than hogs-lard, and near as ſweet as oil of olives; it was

not

not hunger that engaged us in its favour; for we had a fat young buck and three turkeys freſh ſhot at the ſame time, and ſome boiled with the bear, but we choſe the laſt for its ſweetneſs and good reliſh.

15. This morning was very warm and a little ſhowery; the muſkatoes were troubleſome laſt night, and this morning the flies blowed our meat before 10 o'clock; the ticks creeping and lizards running about our tent; we ſtaid here all day to barbacue our meat to ſerve us down the river, which would ſoon ſpoil if not preſerved either by fire or ſalt, and of which laſt we had only enough to ſeaſon our victuals with it; rained faſt, yet we walked to ſee ſeveral warm ſprings on the weſt-end of the lake, one of which was about 40 or 50 yards broad at the head, and held the ſame width for 300 yards down to the lake, without much current, the head being near even with the lake; the water had a greeniſh caſt, was very loathſome, and full of great gar-fiſh; the other riſes near half a mile from the lake, and hath a middling fall, very convenient to turn a mill, with a little dam having high banks on each ſide, and no floods can hurt it, as the

mill

mill may be near half a mile from the ſpring-head; the worſt is, the ſtream is full ſmall; there is a fine large cypreſs-ſwamp on each ſide cloſe to the lake, the fartheſt of which is about half a mile; this fine ſtream hath five heads, the banks are 10 or 15 foot perpendicular; three of the heads boil up like a pot in a pure white ſand, every minute it boils up above the ſurface of the common pond or baſon, then the ſurrounding ſand ſlips into the cavity, which preſſes down the ſpring until the water below is collected from the back under-ground ſtream ſo ſtrong as to force the ſand and water above the common ſurface, ſo that there is a continual periodical motion; one of theſe ſprings was ſo warm, that altho' I was in a ſweat, yet it ſeemed warm to my hand; they are all of them warm, and of a loathſome taſte, their ſediment is white, and one may ſmell them at many yards diſtance.

16th. Very cold windy day, the lake being ſo rough that we could not ſtir; ſo our hunters rendered the bear's oil, and ſtretched and dried the ſkin.

17. Fine ſtill morning, and moderate. Set out and rowed up the lake; paſt by a

long

long point of marſh with a hammock of palms projecting out from near the weſt-ſide of the lake, it being ſuppoſed to be an iſland from which is extended numerous little turfs of graſs a great way farther into the lake, and in time may unite into a long point; the depth is generally 7 foot, one place 8: About 12 o'clock we came to the middle lake, and having in our going up the river viewed the north-ſide and ſtinking ſprings, we now coaſted the ſouth-weſt or Indian ſide, which is ſurrounded with pine-barrens, interſperſed with ſome cypreſs, but generally poor ſandy palmetto-ground, its length may be near 8 miles and breadth 3 or 4; ſome ſmall marſh points project a little way into it, it is about 10 feet deep, generally ſo is the river, its courſe eaſt and weſt: A few miles below the lake we came to a fine rich low dry bluff, 4 foot above the water; it declined gradually to a fine marſh, near half a mile wide to the pine-lands, and a very extenſive proſpect to the Indian ſide over marſhes and large ſwamps; this is the fineſt piece of rich dry ground I obſerved ſince we left the head of the river; it produced very good rich graſs, palms and live oaks, the dry ground may

be

be 8 roods wide and 40 long; here we cut down three tall palm or cabbage-trees, and cut out the top bud, the white tender part or the rudiments of the great leaves, which will be 6 or 7 foot long, when full grown, and the palmed part 4 in diameter; this tender part will be 3 or 4 inches in diameter tapering near a foot, and cuts as white and tender as a turnip; this they ſlice into a pot and ſtew with water, then, when almoſt tender, they pour ſome bears oil into it, and ſtew it a little longer, when it eats pleaſant and much more mild than a cabbage: I never eat half ſo much cabbage at a time, and it agreed the beſt with me of any ſauce I ever eat, either alone or with meat: Our hunters frequently eat it raw, and will live upon it ſeveral days; the ſmall palmetto or chamærops yields a ſmall white bud no bigger than one's finger, which is eaten by men, bears, and horſes, in caſe of great need; this ſituation pleaſed me ſo much we called it Bartram's Bluff, and for an induſtrious planter with a few hands may be a pretty eſtate.

18th. Set out from Bartram's Bluff, a lovely fine morning and warm, ſtopped at Mount-joy for a little, and after ſeveral miles

miles rowing came to a rich iſland, and took the left hand branch, down which we rowed ſeveral very crooked courſes by ſome oak and pine-bluffs 5 or 6 foot high, excellent ſwamps, ſome cypreſs-trees, and much maple and aſh being on both ſides the river, which is two fathom deep, and, where we entered it, not above 20 yards wide, but at the lower end twice as much; it opened into the main river, a little below a high bluff of four oranges, and on the oppoſite ſide grow great quantities of what is called bitter ſweets, which are next in goodneſs to the china; we eat abundance of them, and found them very wholeſome; they laſt much longer than the ſweet, which continue only to March.

The common current of the river here is not above two miles an hour, the uncommon rains laſt ſummer and part of the fall had raiſed it 2 foot or more higher than at preſent, and then the current no doubt ran ſwifter, and our pilot ſaid he had known it to be 3 foot lower than now; but ſuppoſe it only two, then there muſt be very little current.—This night was very warm, and the muſkitoes troubleſome, ſo that we ſmoaked our tent twice.

19th. Fine warm morning, birds ſinging, fiſh jumping, and turkies gobling. Set out, and preſently came to a rich iſland, and ran between it and the Indian land, which is high and ſhelly, then lower, and very good on each ſide: We ſoon came into the river again, and rowed down it, till we came to a ſmall branch on the eaſt-ſide, down which we rowed near half a mile, where we were entirely ſtopped by the piſtia and perſicaria growing all in a matt; we then turned back, concluding it to run on the eaſt-ſide of an iſland, and to join the river below in ſome of its eaſtern lagoons to the river, down which we proceeded, and croſſed the mouth of the eaſt lake, and in an hour or two arrived at Spalding's Upper-ſtore, where we ſtaid all night, which was very warm, and the muſkitoes very troubleſome, as much ſo as any time ſince I left Charles-town.

20th. Fine warm morning, but the ſouth-weſt wind ſoon blew ſo hard, that we durſt not venture to ſail on the great lake, and our pilot wanted to dry his ſkins, ſo we ſtaid here all day; but in the afternoon our hoſt went over the river to ſhoot geeſe in the pine-land ponds, where they

gene-

generally feed on the graſs growing there; for they don't frequent the river, as we did not ſee one all the way, but multitudes of ducks: We landed on a bank of the river, a little above the place where the Indians ſwim their horſes over, about 4 foot above the water; the bank was compoſed of ſnail and muſcle-ſhells, a ſtrata of which, that was even or under the ſurface of the river, was converted into a concrete as hard as a ſoft ſtone, as are moſt of the banks of the upper part of the river, which will burn to lime; we walked from the landing directly towards the pine-lands, at firſt over a rich level, then aſcended a hill 6 feet perpendicular, formed all of ſhells mixed with a little black ſandy mould, ſcarce enough to fill up the vacuities betwixt one ſhell and the other, although the ſmall ones and broken pieces are drove as cloſe together as poſſible; this compoſition laſted for near 200 yards, the ſhells diminiſhing gradually, and the fine ſand appearing more and more, until no more ſhells were ſeen mixed with it; we ſtill came to riſing ground producing hiccory, magnolia, bay and water-oak, then ground-oak, chamærops, then pine-land, dwarf-

myrtle, kalmia, vaccinium, andromeda, ſmall pines and long graſs in the ponds, where the water was about knee-deep more or leſs, ſome of which contain from one to 10 acres; but ſome ponds are a mile or two big, more or leſs, ſome ſurrounded cloſe with the adjacent pine-lands, and others with large ſavannahs at one or both ſides, with a rivulet running out, and ſometimes with a bay or cypreſs-ſwamp at the head. I was talking to our hoſt that I could not find any good clay up the river; he ſaid there was good white clay to be got on the weſt-ſide of the river near his houſe; we went to look at it, and taking a hoe, I cut a piece of it up, which was a cloſe compact maſs of ground ſea-ſhells a little above the ſurface of the water, the lower the more it looked and felt like clay. Quere, whether or not ſome ſorts of clay are not formed out of ſea-ſhells ground minutely to powder in a long ſeries of time?

21ſt. Warm morning; ſet out from Spalding's Upper-ſtore, wind ſouth; it ſoon fell a raining, ſo that we encamped near the head of the great lake, at an orange grove on a bluff, where we gathered good

bitter-

bitter-ſweets, the four ones lay ſcattered all about on the ground; there are two large and ſome ſmall iſlands near the head of the great lake.

22d. Cold morning, and the wind ſo high, durſt not venture on the lake it being very rough; ſo we ſtaid here all night, and fired the marſh.

23d. Very cool, clear morning, wind N. W. Set out early, and coaſted the weſt-ſide of the lake, which was part ſandy-beech, part marſh, ſome cypreſs-ſwamp, and much oak banks, until we came to William's Spring, a creek of very clear warm water, 30 yards broad and 2 foot deep, the ſpring heads even with the river; we landed near its mouth on a ſhelly-bluff amongſt thouſands of orange-trees, growing ſo thick that we could hardly paſs between them for a quarter of a mile; we walked near a mile up to two or three of its heads, and left one on the right hand which we did not ſearch, becauſe we could not get at it without a boat; the land near the creek was a rich but narrow ſwamp 100 yards wide more or leſs, adjacent to which was a high ſhelly-bluff, on which the Indians had planted;

planted; it is remarkable that the Florida Indians planted on all theſe ſhelly-bluffs, as being the moſt fertile parts, except the ſwamps and marſhes, which are only proper for rice, and which the Indians never planted, as they would never take the pains of raiſing and ſhelling of it; and the pine-lands not being ſuitable for corn by their method of cultivation; but whether they planted the intermediate declining grounds I can't ſay, as large trees of cedar, celtes, and palms, with many other kinds, grow on moſt of them: About noon we ſet out from this place, and coaſted ſtill on the weſt-ſide, being very warm, and we ſtill obſerved either oak-hammocks, or high pines; about half way down the lake is a high bluff, the upper part white ſoil, the lower yellow, it produced ſpruce-pine and ſcrub-oaks; we could not bring our boat near the ſhore, for this weſt-ſide is very ſhoal moſt of the way, and the land moſtly palmetto-ground, and ſome few cypreſs-ſwamps; we encamped on a deſcending bank, on the back of which was ſcrub-oaks and dwarf-palmetto or chamærops; here we cooked a fine meſs of palm-cabbage.

24th.

24th. Moderate clear morning; rowed early by a bank of pine-land for ſeveral miles and ſome cypreſs-ſwamps, then came to a large creek, called Johnſon's Spring, the weſt-end of the lake about 80 yards near broad, but after it widens to about 200; the pine-land comes pretty cloſe to its banks, then a narrow low marſh interpoſes, and after we rowed higher up we ſaw narrow cypreſs-ſwamps, loblolly-bays, and ſome few oak-hammocks; the creek abounds with fiſh, many ſtengrays near its mouth; it is ſuppoſed to run 7 miles from its head to the lake, where the bar is about 18 inches deep, but the creek is 3, 4, and 5 foot up to the ſpring, which is nearly level with the lake, and full of graſs and weeds at the bottom, many of which reach to the top of the water, and are a great obſtruction to boats in going up, without they keep directly in the channel; on the north-ſide towards its head a large marſh brancheth out; we came at laſt to where the cattails and bullruſhes grew ſo thick, that we could not force the batoe through them, though it was 100 yards broad, and 3 or 4 foot deep, ſo clear that we could ſee the muſcle-

ſhells

ſhells on its ſhelly bottom in patches 3 or 4 foot diameter between the great patches of graſs and weeds; we landed to ſearch the head ſprings, and paſſed through an orange-grove and an old field of the Florida Indians, then came to the main ſprings, where a prodigious quantity of very clear warm brackiſh water boiled up between vaſt rocks of unknown depth, we could not reach the bottom by a very long pole; this was on the north-bank, about 12 foot high above the water, which ſpreads immediately 50 or 60 yards broad: We walked round the weſt-end towards the ſouth-bank, where the bare flat rocks appeared above water, and a great ſtream boiled up of a ſalt and ſouriſh taſte, but not near ſo loathſome as ſeveral before-deſcribed, nor had it any bad ſmell, or whitiſh ſediment as they; we examined the compoſition of the rocks, and found ſome of them to be a concrete rediſh ſand, ſome whitiſh mixed with clay, others a ferruginous irregular concrete, and many a combination of all theſe materials with ſea-ſhells, clams, and cockles; we found in the bank an aſh-coloured tenacious earth, and a ſtrata of yellow ſand beneath;

near

near here my ſon found a lovely ſweet tree [u], with leaves like the ſweet bay, which ſmelled like ſaſſafras, and produce a very ſtrange kind of ſeed-pod, but the ſeed was all ſhed, the ſevere froſt had not hurt it; ſome of them grew near 20 foot high, a charming bright evergreen aromatic: We ſaw near the ſpring numbers of large garr, cats, mullets, trouts, and ſeveral other kinds unknown to us, ſome in chace of others, which run into the graſs to hide them from their enemies; in going down to the lake the fiſh were continually jumping; we obſerved on the north-end of the lake a hammock of oak. We then ſteered our courſe to Bryan's Iſland, on which there is ſome good land and rich ſwamp, with pretty much pine-land, it is ſuppoſed to contain about 1500 acres; here we encamped on a rocky riſing ground, and found numbers of great and ſmall oyſter-ſhells, clams, perriwinkles, ſea-muſcles, and cockles, all cemented together with

 broken

[u] By the above deſcription this may probably be the Illicium aniſatum of Linn. Spec. 664. which is the Somo or Skimmi of Kæmpfer's amœnitates, p. 880.—This is the tree ſo much admired for its ſpicy quality by the Chineſe and Japoneſe, and which has been diſcovered lately by William Clifton, Eſq; Chief-Juſtice of Weſt-Florida, to grow near Penſacola.

broken fragments, ſome ground as fine as coarſe ſand; they were all confuſedly mixed and jumbled together as upon our ſea-coaſt; firſt a ſtrata of ſhells, then a ſtrata of ſhells and fragments fill up the leaſt cavity; it is remarkable that we never found any ſcallops to the ſouth of Carolina, either on the coaſt or up in the country.

25th. Fine pleaſant morning, although a little froſt in the pine-lands; ſaw ſeveral flocks of pigeons flying about both yeſterday and to-day: About noon we landed at Mount-Royal, and went to an Indian tumulus, which was about 100 yards in diameter, nearly round, and near 20 foot high, found ſome bones ſcattered on it, it muſt be very ancient, as live-oaks are growing upon it three foot in diameter; what a prodigious multitude of Indians muſt have laboured to raiſe it? to what height we can't ſay, as it muſt have ſettled much in ſuch a number of years, and it is ſurprizing where they brought the ſand from, and how, as they had nothing but baſkets or bowls to carry it in; there ſeems to be a little hollow near the adjacent level on one ſide, though not likely to raiſe

ſuch a tumulus the 50th part of what it is, but directly north from the tumulus is a fine ſtraight avenue about 60 yards broad, all the ſurface of which has been taken off, and thrown on each ſide, which makes a bank of about a rood wide and a foot high more or leſs, as the unevenneſs of the ground required, for the avenue is as level as a floor from bank to bank, and continues ſo for about three quarters of a mile to a pond of about 100 yards broad and 150 long N. and S. ſeemed to be an oblong ſquare, and its banks 4 foot perpendicular, gradually ſloping every way to the water, the depth of which we could not ſay, but do not imagine it deep, as the graſs grows all over it; by its regularity it ſeems to be artificial; if ſo, perhaps the ſand was carried from hence to raiſe the tumulus, as the one directly faces the other at each end of the avenue; on the ſouth-ſide of the tumulus I found a very large rattle-ſnake ſunning himſelf, I ſuppoſe this to be his winter-quarters; here had formerly been a large Indian town; I ſuppoſe there is 50 acres of planting ground cleared and of a middling ſoil, a good part of which is mixed with ſmall ſhells; no doubt

this large tumulus was their burying-place or ſepulchre: Whether the Florida Indians buried the bones after the fleſh was rotted off them, as the preſent ſouthern Indians do, I can't ſay: We then rowed down the river, and encamped at Spalding's Lower-ſtore, oppoſite to a ſmall rich iſland on the weſt-ſide of the river.

26th. Fine morning, warm and pleaſant; obſerved a plumb-tree in full bloſſom; here I ſaw many pine-trees, that had lately been cut down, and though 18 inches in diameter, they were the greateſt part ſap, I counted their years growth, and found ſome to be about 50, ſome 40, and others 30, but one large tree two foot in diameter, had only four inches of ſap, and I counted 130 years growth or red circles; here was a well dug on declining ground, the water, which was ſweet, roſe to within 5 or 6 foot of the ſurface of the ground, at the diſtance of 100 yards from the river, and perhaps eight foot above it.

We rowed four miles down the river to Dunn's Iſland, which Lord Adam Gordon has petitioned for; it contains about 1500 acres more or leſs of good ſwamp, and ſome hammock. We then took the right-hand

creek

creek up to Dunn's lake, obſerving much good ſwamp on both ſides, the creek being generally 150 yards broad, and two fathom deep; on the weſt-ſide there is two points of low land, which comes cloſe to the creek: About noon we entered the lake, whoſe general courſe is N. W. and S. E. and about 15 miles long; the upper-end turns towards the eaſt: We encamped on the north-ſide in a cypreſs-ſwamp, part of it marſhy, its bank next the lake was a foot above the water, but back was lower until the pine-lands began within half a mile; this north-ſide is generally a narrow cypreſs-ſwamp to the pines, widening a little in ſome branches.

27th. Fine pleaſant morning. Set out early, and landed on a ſmall iſland of near 100 acres, part cypreſs-ſwamp, part marſh, and piney palmetto, a very rotten black ſoil, mixed with white ſand: We landed on a low bluff of muſcle and ſnail-ſhells, generally broken and powdered by the ſurges of the lake; here, as well as in moſt other places on any high dry bank on the river or its branches where the ſoil is good, are found fragments of old Indian pots and orange-trees, which clearly demonſtrates,

monſtrates, that the Florida Indians inhabited every fertile ſpot on St. John's river, lakes and branches; now the aſh, maple, elm, and pavia, are all green, and ſhot out ſeveral inches, the cypreſs is in full bloom, the water-oak begins to look yellow, and the ſweet gum juſt caſting it's leaves: the north-end of this iſland is pine and palmetto, then high ſwamp; the eaſt-end low. Leaving the iſland, we encamped where we did the night before, on a bed of long tree-moſs, to preſerve us from the very low damp ground, which is very unpleaſant and dangerous.

28th. Fine morning; ſet down Dunn's lake, the weſt-ſide of which is generally pine-land, but at the head weſtward are ſome very good ſwamps, which hold geneнerally down the river; ſquire Roll claims all the north or north-eaſt-ſide from his town to the head of the lake; from the lower-end of which 'tis reckond 13 miles to the river, thence down to Roll's 4; on the weſt-ſide of the river is a very rich extenſive marſh, which colonel Middleton claims; about one o'clock we arrived at Charlottenburgh, Roll's town, and ſtaid all night.

29th.

29th. Fine clear morning and warm day, like the firſt of our May; walked all about the town and adjacent woods: near the banks of the river are the remains of an old Spaniſh entrenchment, 12 yards one way and 14 the other, about 5 foot high; on three ſides being open to the river; the town is half a mile long, with half a ſcore of ſcattered houſes in it, built of round loggs; the ſtreets are laid out at right angles, one of them is 100 foot broad, the other 60; the land back is all pine and ſcrub-oaks; the bluff continues half a mile down the river, which is 7 fathom deep near the town, but towards the oppoſite ſhore there is a ſand-bar, it is not above half a mile wide here, but ſoon widens above.

30th. Fine morning; ſet out from Roll's, whoſe ſteward, Mr. Banks, was very kind to us, and ſeems to be a ſober, careful, and agreeable man; we rowed 8 miles, croſſing the river to Gray's creek, which is 60 yards wide, and two fathom and a half deep; we went about 7 miles up it; its general courſe is weſt by ſouth, and generally pretty ſtraight, good high ſwamps on each ſide, tho' on the north-ſide the pines come near, eſpecially near the upper

part,

part, where the ground is poor; we could not paſs near ſo far, as we had depth of water, by reaſon of many old trees fallen acroſs the creek at 7 foot deep and 10 or 12 yards broad; great floods certainly come down it, for there were great banks of ſand 4 foot, more or leſs high, drove on its banks; here is very good graſs growing in the pine-woods knee high. We rowed down again, croſſed the river, and encamped at a great orange-grove, where thouſands of orange-trees grow as thick as poſſible, and full of ſour and bitter-ſweet fruits; this is about four miles by land from Mr. Roll's, though near 8 by water; he claims it in his 20,000 acres; ſome of it is good ſwamp, but moſtly pine-land.

31ſt. Fine morning; rowed for ſeveral miles on the weſt-ſide of the river, having croſſed it, and obſerved ſeveral good cypreſs-ſwamps and oak-hammocks alternately mixed with pine-land, which comes cloſe to the river's bank, in other places they come cloſe to the ſwamps, which are here from 50 yards deep to 500 or more; we then croſſed the river to the eaſt-ſide, along which we rowed, the pine-lands ſtill approach-

approaching near the banks moſt of the way, ſome few cypreſs and maple-trees grow near the ſhore; we rowed into a great cove, on the north-ſide of which is a fine rich high ſwamp; we encamped at a point on the eaſt-ſide on middling high ground ſloping towards the river, back of which is palmetto-ground and black ſoil well timbered with live-oaks.

February the firſt. Walked in a fine rich open marſh, then palmetto and myrtles join the pine-lands, in which a little ſpring heads the ſwamp, which may be a quarter of a mile deep: We got to Picolata by noon, the north wind being againſt us as the day before; we then rowed to a low bluff of middling land, well timbered with live and water-oak, great magnolia and ſweet-gum; here was alſo a rich ſwamp of aſh and maple; but generally below Roll's town there is no ſuch large bodies of ſwamps as above, eſpecially on the eaſt-ſide, though at the mouth of Picolata creek, about 6 miles below the fort, there is a pretty large ſwamp.

2d. Walked this morning to obſerve the ſoil, the wind north, and cool, landed at Popa fort, a ſmall ſhallow entrenchment

almoſt filled up with length of time; 'tis 20 yards ſquare, and as many from the river; a few yards back of it there is another about twice as big, here is a grove of orange-trees, and many acres of large live-oaks, 2 or 3 foot in diameter, adjacent to which is a ſhallow but good ſwamp with ſome cypreſs-trees; nearly oppoſite to this on the weſt-ſide branches out a creek running 3 or 4 miles, on which grow large red cedars; and about 2 miles below it, branches out White or Black River, it bears both names, the laſt by the Engliſh; 'tis navigable above 20 miles, ſome ſay 30, 'tis reckoned 20 to Caldwall's ſtore, our preſent boundary with the creek Indians; this river or creek is about 100 yards wide and 3 fathom deep, more or leſs, its general courſe is weſt; we landed at a pine-bluff, 300 yards long and 10 foot perpendicular, more or leſs, the upper ſurface of which, for a foot or more deep, is white ſand, then 2 foot of an aſh-coloured clay mixed with red and yellow ſand, then 5 foot of a fine yellow ſand, (no coarſe ſand is to be found in any of the ſouthern provinces) then a tenacious aſh-coloured clay to an unknown depth, reaching below

the

the ſurface of the creek; there is a pretty ſpring runs into the creek juſt above the bluff; we lodged near its mouth.

3d. Set out early, cool morning, with white froſt, wind N. W. Saw many high bluffs near 20 foot high, but poor and ſandy; ſome have a cypreſs-ſwamp behind them, others are level with the adjacent pine-land, in which is plenty of rank graſs knee high; on one or both ſides of theſe bluffs frequently runs out a ſmall ſpring: We called at the Store, (this was a fine warm day) above which, the land is ſtill higher, and produces live-oak, red and purple-berried bay, alder, maple, chinquapins, elm, linden, water-oak, myrtle, dogwood, vaccinium, palmetto, hamamelis [w], and cedar; here the creek divides into two branches nearly equal; we took the left hand one, which had generally high banks on each ſide, raiſed by the floods 12 or more feet with white ſand; in many places the level pine-lands come cloſe to its banks; in others again, there is a pond or cypreſs-ſwamp juſt behind the bank, in which very large trees grow in the

[w] Hamamelis, a ſhrub with leaves like the common hazel, propagated for the ſake of variety by the Engliſh gardeners.

pine-lands; there are a number of ſhallow ponds, on the borders of which there is much green graſs all the winter: We rowed up this branch, until the great trees, that had fallen acroſs the creek, ſtopped our paſſage, and there the creeks were 4 or 5 foot deep and 10 yards broad, on a ſandy bottom; we returned to the Store, where we lodged, and before day it began to rain.

4th. Warm rainy morning; it cleared up, and we ſet out up the north-branch, the banks of which were 12 or 13 foot high moſt of the way, more or leſs, in many places rocks under the ſurface, 3 or 4 foot reaching below the ſurface of the water to an unknown depth in ſome places; the firſt ſtrata is ſandy, then a gritty rock for a foot, then a ſoftiſh rock full of ſea-ſhells, of the cockle and perriwinkle kind, mixed cloſe with broken or ground ſhells to a ſolid maſs for two foot, more or leſs, then a deep maſs, of ſoft, in ſome places, hard rocks: We rowed up this branch until we were ſtopped by trees, as in the other, and here the creek was 10 yards broad and a fathom deep; we walked up it a good way farther, but found little alteration,

except

except in its being fuller of old trees; the traders ſay, it heads in a great lake 5 miles long and 3 broad; there are ſome middling good cypreſs-ſwamps near its banks, the floods had been ſo high up this branch, as to flow over its banks, and the firſt riſing of the pine-lands; they had not been quite ſo high in the other branch; near the Store was a deep gut with a middling ſtream of water, which headed about a quarter of a mile up in the pine-lands, and guſhed out over the rocks, where it had worn a deep narrow gully 8 or 10 foot deep, the rocks reached to within 4 foot, more or leſs of the ſurface, and to an unknown depth, all of ground or broken ſea-ſhells; in ſome places there is a ſtrata of tenacious clay, either above, under, or without this ſhelly ſtrata.

5th. Set out from the Store down the river, near the mouth of which are ſome good cypreſs-ſwamps, and up it generally very large ones; about 4 miles up, there is a very extenſive one, reaching a mile and a half north-eaſtward, to a place called the Doctor's lake, narrowing gradually to the mouth of the creek and upwards, till a pine-bluff interpoſes; oppoſite to this is another extenſive ſwamp, up-

wards

wards of 1000 acres; pretty near the mouth of the creek there are two ſmall iſlands; a large point of land projects out from the main on the eaſt-ſide of the river oppoſite to the mouth of Doctor's lake, which runs near ſouth partly paral-lel with the river: We arrived this even-ing at Mr. Davis's.

6th. Set out for the Doctor's lake, which is half a mile or more broad, and 6 or 7 long; at the head of which is a large creek, about 100 or more yards broad, and near a mile and half long, heading in a rich ſwamp with 3 or 4 branches, which drain it: On the weſt-ſide there is a ham-mock of oak, hiccory, magnolia, and hornbeam, and a fine ſpring of clear water almoſt big enough to turn a mill, boiling up from under the main body of the coun-try rocks, as all the great fountains do; the ſoil looks rich.

7th. Cloudy morning; we croſſed a branch, landed, and walked over a rich ſwamp 2 or 300 yards wide, then came to cutting-graſs, then palmetto for 100 yards, then to a pine-ſavannah of a vaſt extent, moiſt, and producing a great burthen of pretty good graſs, knee-deep; we returned

and

and rowed down the lake and river about 14 miles to Davis's, againſt a ſtrong wind, rain, and thunder, all wet and cold.

8th. Fine clear morning, wind weſt. Set out after noon, having dried our cloaths and blankets, rowed to Green-wood's, and encamped by a grove of orange-trees; from hence to the Cow-ford; the banks are generally high, with very large oak, bay, and great magnolia, the ſoil tho' ſandy is pretty good.

9th. A Fine morning; rowed down to the Cattle-ford, below which is a marſh on both ſides, then pines, then another pretty large marſh, and ſo on alternately high oak-banks, open marſhes, and flat pine-woods and ſavannahs; back there is pretty high ſand-hills, and ſome ponds; came to Williams's point and creek, the water is pretty deep at the point, out of which iſſue ſeveral little ſprings: We then ſoon came to Forbes's bluff, where grows a good ſort of ruſh to bottom chairs with, or make matts, much better than the common bullruſh or the three-ſquare ones; it rained in the evening, but cleared up about midnight; this bluff is very productive, being covered with ſhells of oyſters,

which

which the Florida Indians fed much upon near the ſea-coaſt.

10th. Pleaſant morning, wind blowing ſtrong at N. W. Breakfaſted on a meſs of tanniers, a ſpecies of eddo [x], which being boiled with meat is good food, the roots are 4 inches in diameter, and 5 long, wholeſome, and of great increaſe, when planted in moiſtiſh rich ground, but will do in middling ſoil. Set out, and ſailed through the narrow paſſage, not being much above a quarter of a mile wide, running between two large marſhes a little above a high bluff, called Oglethorpe's or Heſler's bluff, (an exceeding convenient ſituation for the building of a fort to ſecure the inhabitants up the river in time of war, 'tis about 8 miles from the bar and ſea) in this narrow paſſage 'tis very reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that the flood-tide muſt run very rapid, as it has 200 miles up this broad river to flow, in many places 2 miles wide, and many branches and large lakes to

[x] Tanniers, a ſpecies of Eddo's.—This is a ſpecies of Arum or Wake Robin.—There are many ſorts of them cultivated in the Weſt-Indies, and in Carolina, for the ſake of the roots as well as the leaves, which latter is called Indian-Kale; for further information conſult Sir Hans Sloane, Hiſt. Jam. Vol. I. p. 166 to 170; Brown's Hiſt. Jam. and Miller's Dictionary, under the title Arum.

to fill; we landed about 2 miles above the bar, and walked along a fine ſandy beech of regular deſcent, quite to the ſea low-water-mark to an inlet, up which we walked to one Hazard's, a good kind of a man, and one of the beſt planters in Florida; he is ſettled on a large rich iſland, great part of which is ſurrounded with marſh, which on one ſide is very extenſive.

11th. North-weſt wind very high; could not venture on the river, ſo walked all over the iſland; obſerving his improvements; and the curioſities, both natural and artificial, of the Indians and Spaniards; of the former, were ſeveral middling tumulus's or ſepulchres of the Florida Indians, with numerous heaps of oyſter-ſhells, which one may reaſonably ſuppoſe were many hundred years in collecting by as many thouſands of Indians, alſo variety of old brokenIndian pots. 'Tis very demonſtrable that the Spaniards had a fine ſettlement here, as there ſtill remain their cedar poſts on each ſide their fine ſtraight avenues, pieces of hewn live-oaks, and great trees girdled round to kill them, which are now very ſound, tho' above 60 years ſince

they were cut. This rich iſland, tho' it appears ſandy on the ſurface, yet hath a clay bottom, above which in ſome places there is a dark-coloured ſtrata of indurated ſand-rock.

12th. Cool morning, with a little white froſt, yet a pleaſant day. Set out early, rowing up the river again; on the ſouth-ſide, near the bar, there are ſome very high ſand-hills, a little above which is the mouth of Don Pablo's creek, which runs towards the head of the north river, that empties itſelf near St. Auguſtine; 'tis reckoned about 5 or 6 miles between them, where, if a good paſſage was cut, and could be kept open, there would be a fine communication from St. John's river to the town, without the hazard of going to ſea, and croſſing two troubleſome bars: Four miles from the mouth of the river, on the north-ſide, branches out a creek, called the Sifters, from two hammocks that are much alike; between them is a paſſage to Charles-town for ſchooners; the large ſhips can come within 15 miles of St. John's: a little above this, there is another little creek and paſſage to Charles-town; below which, is an iſland of marſh. Paſt

by Trout-creek, 300 yards broad, ſalt to its head, up which, there is good pine-woods, and fine range for cattle, with ſome cypreſs-ſwamps; oppoſite to it, on the ſouth-ſide of the river, is Sandy-point, full of high pines, and back very large ponds. We arrived at Mr. Davis's near night, and next morning ſet out for Auguſtine.

As the lower-part of the river and its branches are known, 'tis needleſs to be more particular in deſcribing them.

Remarks on the River St. John's.

THE pine-lands, as they are here called, contain a variety of ſoil, according to their different ſituations; ſome very large ſhallow ponds, quite dry in dry ſeaſons, but generally abounding with tall graſs; ſome very extenſive ſavannahs, producing rank good graſs, as thick as it can grow, where great numbers of cattle may be raiſed; very lofty pines, and in many places cypreſs-ſwamps, the laſt of which are allowed to be excellent rice-grounds, if clay bottoms are within a few feet, and a good laſting ſtream of water runs thro' them, to drain and flow them at pleaſure; the bay-ſwamps are frequently found in the pine-lands, being the general heads of the cypreſs-branches: This pine-land, by the help of dung and cultivation, will produce good corn, potatoes, and cotton; the large palmetto declining ground, between the pines and ſwamps, are moiſt and ſeem rich, and perhaps will ſuit both corn and indigo; but the ſhelly bluffs ſeem to be the moſt fertile ſpots of high ground, and the Indians chief plantations for corn and

pum-

pumkins; That which is called hammocky ground is generally full of large evergreen and water-oaks, mixed with red-bay and magnolia, and in many places the great palmetto or cabbage-tree; this is generally reckoned proper both for corn, cotton, and indigo; but the marſhes and ſwamps (ſo very extenſive upon the river St. John's) are exceeding rich, the laſt of which are full of large aſh, maple, and elm, being of an unknown depth of rich mud; ſo are the marſhes on the upper-part of the river, which are covered with water-canes and reeds, as the lower marſhes are with rank graſs and weeds; all of which when they are drained dry, will produce, in all probability, great crops of corn and indigo, and without much or any draining a fine increaſe of rice; ſo would the vaſt cypreſs-ſwamps; and of the large cypreſs-trees may be made great quantities of choice ſhingles, pales, and boards, of long duration; the prodigious large live-oaks will make excellent ſtrong and durable timbers for ſhippings, as the tall ſtraight long-leaved pine for maſts and yards, and the others for turpentine, tar, and pitch, as alſo for plank and ſcantlings.

St.

St. John's river, by its near affinity to the ſea, is well replenished with variety of excellent fiſh, as baſs, ſea-trout, ſheep-head, drums, mullets, cats, garr, ſturgeon, ſtingrays; and, near its mouth, oyſters, crabs, and ſhrimps, ſharks and porpoiſes, which doubtleſs will continue, as there is ſuch a great extent of its waters in ſo many great lakes, ponds, and branches, continuing both deep and broad to near its head; its ſhores, being generally ſhoal, are full of graſs and weeds, and afford a fine aſylum to the young fry againſt their devouring enemies.

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